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FOURTH EDITION

P.H. Collin

BLOOMSBURY

A BLOOMSBURY REFERENCE BOOK

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Originally published by Peter Collin Publishing
as *English Law Dictionary*

First published 1986
Second edition published 1992
Third edition published 2000, 2001
Fourth edition published 2004

Bloomsbury Publishing Plc
38 Soho Square, London W1D 3HB

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British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 0 7475 6636 4
eISBN-13: 978-1-4081-0211-4

Text Production and Proofreading
Katy McAdam, Heather Bateman, Emma Harris

All papers used by Bloomsbury Publishing are natural, recyclable
products made from wood grown in well-managed forests.
The manufacturing processes conform to the
environmental regulations of the country of origin.

Text processing and computer typesetting by Bloomsbury
Printed and bound in Italy by Legoprint

Preface

This dictionary provides the user with the main vocabulary currently being used in British and American law. The areas covered include criminal, civil, commercial and international law, as well as interactions with the police and legal advisers, and the procedures of the courts and prisons. Common words used in reading or writing reports, articles or guidelines are also included.

The dictionary is designed for anyone who needs to check the meaning or pronunciation of legal terms, but especially for those who need some knowledge of legal terms in their work but who may not be legal professionals, or for those for whom English is an additional language. Each headword is explained in a clear, straightforward way. Pronunciations, uncommon plurals and uncommon verb forms are provided.

Many people have helped or advised on the compilation and checking of the dictionary in its various editions. In particular, thanks are due to Coral Hill, Senior Lecturer at the College of Law of England and Wales, for her helpful comments and advice on this fourth edition.

Pronunciation

The following symbols have been used to show the pronunciation of the main words in the dictionary.

Stress is indicated by a main stress mark (ˈ) and a secondary stress mark (ˌ). Note that these are only guides, as the stress of the word changes according to its position in the sentence.

Vowels		*Consonants*	
æ	b**a**ck	b	**b**uck
ɑː	h**ar**m	d	**d**ead
ɒ	st**o**p	ð	o**th**er
aɪ	t**y**pe	dʒ	**j**ump
aʊ	h**ow**	f	**f**are
aɪə	h**ire**	g	**g**old
aʊə	**hour**	h	**h**ead
ɔː	c**our**se	j	**y**ellow
ɔɪ	ann**oy**	k	**c**ab
e	h**ea**d	l	**l**eave
eə	**fair**	m	**m**ix
eɪ	m**a**ke	n	**n**il
eʊ	g**o**	ŋ	si**ng**
ɜː	w**or**d	p	**p**rint
iː	k**ee**p	r	**r**est
i	happ**y**	s	**s**ave
ə	**a**bout	ʃ	**sh**op
ɪ	f**i**t	t	**t**ake
ɪə	n**ear**	tʃ	**ch**ange
u	ann**u**al	θ	**th**eft
uː	p**oo**l	v	**v**alue
ʊ	b**oo**k	w	**w**ork
ʊə	t**our**	x	lo**ch**
ʌ	sh**u**t	ʒ	mea**s**ure
		z	**z**one

A

A.B.A. *abbreviation US* American Bar Association

abandon /ə'bændən/ *verb* **1.** to stop doing something ○ *The company has decided to abandon the project.* ○ *We have abandoned the idea of taking the family to court.* □ **to abandon an action** to stop pursuing a legal action □ **to abandon a legal right *or* claim** to accept that a right or claim cannot be legally enforced **2.** to leave someone or something without help ○ *He abandoned his family and went abroad.* ○ *The crew had to abandon the sinking ship.*

abandonment /ə'bændənmənt/ *noun* **1.** the act of giving something up voluntarily such as the right to a property **2.** the act of giving up either the whole or part of a claim put forward during civil litigation **3.** the act of a parent or guardian leaving a child on their own in circumstances covered by the Children and Young Persons Act 1933

abate /ə'beɪt/ *verb* **1.** to remove or stop a nuisance **2.** to reduce a legacy **3.** to be reduced **4.** (*of a legacy*) to be reduced because there is not enough money in the estate to pay it in full

abatement /ə'beɪtmənt/ *noun* **1.** the legal right to remove or stop a nuisance once a reasonable period of notice has been given to the wrongdoer **2.** the reduction of a legacy when the deceased person has not left enough money to pay it in full **3.** the reduction or removal of a debt when a person has failed to leave enough money to cover a legacy in full. ◊ **tax abatement**

ABC *abbreviation* Acceptable Behaviour Contract

abduct /æb'dʌkt/ *verb* to take someone away against their will, usually by force ○ *The bank manager was abducted at gunpoint.* ○ *The robbers abducted the heiress and held her to ransom.*

COMMENT: The Child Abduction Act 1984 provides for specific offences to cover the abduction of a child either by a person connected with the child or by other persons. Abduction of an adult may result in prosecutions for kidnapping and/or false imprisonment.

abduction /æb'dʌkʃən/ *noun* the notifiable offence of taking someone away against their will, usually by force

abductor /æb'dʌktə/ *noun* a person who takes someone away against their will

abeyance /ə'beɪəns/ *noun* **1.** □ **in abeyance** not being used or enforced at present ○ *This law is in abeyance.* □ **to fall into abeyance** to stop being used or enforced ○ *The practice was common but has fallen into abeyance.* **2.** a situation where there is no owner of a piece of land

ABH *abbreviation* actual bodily harm

abide by /ə'baɪd baɪ/ *verb* to accept a rule or follow a custom ○ *He promised to abide by the decision of the court.* ○ *She did not abide by the terms of the agreement.* □ **to abide by a promise** to carry out a promise that has been made

ab initio /ˌæb ɪ'nɪʃiəʊ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'from the beginning'

abjuration /ˌæbdʒʊə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of taking back a statement made on oath

abjure /əb'dʒʊə/ *verb* **1.** to make a public promise not to do something **2.** *US* to swear not to bear allegiance to another country

abode /ə'bəʊd/ *noun* the place where someone lives. ◊ **right of abode** □ **of no fixed abode** with no permanent address

abolish /ə'bɒlɪʃ/ *verb* to cancel or remove something such as a law or rule ○ *The Chancellor of the Exchequer refused to ask Parliament to abolish the tax on alcohol.* ○ *The Senate voted to abolish the death penalty.*

abolition /ˌæbə'lɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of abolishing something ○ *campaigning for the abolition of the death penalty*

abortion /ə'bɔːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the ending of a pregnancy before its natural term (NOTE: Illegal abortion is a notifiable offence.)

abrogate /'æbrəgeɪt/ *verb* to end something such as a law or treaty

abrogation /ˌæbrə'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an act of ending something such as a law or treaty

abscond /əb'skɒnd/ *verb* **1.** to leave somewhere suddenly and without permission ○ *He was charged with absconding from lawful custody.* **2.** not to return to the court after being released on bail **3.** to escape from prison

absent /'æbsənt/ *adjective* not present when you expected to be at something such as a meeting or hearing, or your place of work

absentee /ˌæbsən'tiː/ *noun* a person who is not present at something such as court proceedings even though they are expected to be there

absolute discharge /ˌæbsəluːt 'dɪstʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* the release of a convicted person without any punishment

absolute majority /ˌæbsəluːt mə 'dʒɒrɪti/ *noun* a majority over all the others counted together

absolute monopoly /ˌæbsəluːt mə 'nɒpəli/ *noun* a situation where only one producer or supplier produces or supplies something

absolute privilege /ˌæbsəluːt 'prɪvɪlɪdʒ/ *noun* a rule which protects a person from being sued for defamation in specific circumstances such as when a judge or lawyer makes a statement during judicial proceedings, or when an MP speaks in the House of Commons

absolute right /ˌæbsəluːt 'raɪt/ *noun* in the European Convention on Human Rights, a right that under no circumstances may legally be interfered with (NOTE: Examples are the freedoms of thought, conscience, and religion and the prohibitions on torture.)

absolute title /ˌæbsəluːt 'taɪt(ə)l/ *noun* land registered with the Land Registry, where the owner has a guaranteed title to the land (NOTE: Absolute title also exists to leasehold land, giving the proprietor a guaranteed valid lease.)

absolutism /'æbsəluːˌtɪz(ə)m/ *noun* the political theory that any legitimate government should have absolute power

absolutist /ˌæbsə'luːtɪst/ *adjective* **1.** believing in absolutism **2.** referring to a political system where the government has absolute power ■ *noun* a person who believes in absolutism

abstain /əb'steɪn/ *verb* to refrain from doing something, especially voting

abstention /əb'stenʃən/ *noun* **1.** the act of refraining from doing something, especially voting ○ *The motion was carried by 200 votes to 150, with 60 abstentions.* **2.** *US* a situation where a federal court may refuse to hear a case and passes it to a state court which then becomes competent to decide on the federal constitutional issues raised

abstract /'æbstrækt/ *noun* a short summary of a report or document ○ *to make an abstract of the deeds of a property* ■ *verb* to make a summary

abstract of title /ˌæbˌstrækt əv 'taɪt(ə)l/ *noun* a summary of the details of the ownership of a property which has not been registered

abuse *noun* /ə'bjuːs/ **1.** the use of something in a way in which it was not intended to be used **2.** rude or insulting language ○ *The prisoner shouted abuse at the judge.* **3.** very bad treatment of a person, usually physical or sexual ○ *child abuse* ○ *sexual abuse of children* **4.** a harmful or illegal practice ■ *verb* /ə 'bjuːz/ **1.** to use something wrongly □ **to abuse one's authority** to use authority in an illegal or harmful way **2.** to say rude words about someone ○ *He abused the police before being taken to the cells.* **3.** to treat someone very badly, usually physically or sexually ○ *He had abused small children.*

abuse of power /əˌbjuːs əv 'paʊə/ *noun* the use of legal powers in an illegal or harmful way

abuse of process /əˌbjuːz əv prəʊ 'ses/ *noun* the use of a legal process without proper justification or for malicious reasons

abut /ə'bʌt/**, abut on** /ə'bʌt ɒn/ *verb* (*of a piece of land*) to touch another property (NOTE: **abutting – abutted**)

abuttal /ə'bʌt(ə)l/ *noun* the boundaries of a piece of land in relation to land that is adjoining

ACAS /'eɪkæs/ *abbreviation* Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service

ACC *abbreviation* Assistant Chief Constable

acceptable /ək'septəb(ə)l/ *adjective* good enough to be accepted, although not particularly good ○ *The offer is not acceptable to both parties.*

Acceptable Behaviour Contract /əkˌseptəb(ə)l bɪ'heɪvjə ˌkɒntrækt/ *noun* a formal written agreement in written form made between an individual and either parent or guardian or another party that the individual will not act in an antisocial manner in future. Abbreviation **ABC**. ◊ **Antisocial Behaviour Order** (NOTE: ABCs normally last for a period of 6 months.)

acceptance /ək'septəns/ *noun* **1.** one of the main conditions of a contract, where one party agrees to what is proposed by the other party □ **acceptance of an offer** an agreement to accept an offer and therefore to enter into a contract **2.** the act of signing a bill of exchange to show that you agree to pay it

acceptor /ək'septə/**, accepter** *noun* somebody who accepts an offer

access /'ækses/ *noun* **1.** the right of the owner of a piece of land to use a public road which is next to the land ○ *He complained that he was being denied access to the main road.* **2.** □ **to have access to something** to be able to obtain or reach something □ **to gain access to something** to reach or to get hold of something ○ *Access to the courts should be open to all citizens.* ○ *The burglar gained access through the window.* **3.** the right of a child to see a parent regularly, or of a parent or grandparent to see a child regularly, where the child is in the care of someone else **4.** □ **right of access to a solicitor** in the EU, the right of anyone who is in police custody to see a solicitor in private to ask advice

accession /ək'seʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act of becoming a member of something by signing a formal agreement **2.** the act of taking up an official position □ **accession to the throne** becoming King or Queen

access order /ˌækses 'ɔːdə/ *noun* formerly, a court order allowing a parent to see a child where the child is in the care of someone else, such as the other parent in the case of a divorced couple (NOTE: Access orders have been replaced by contact orders.)

accessory /ək'sesəri/ *noun* a person who helps or advises someone who commits a crime □ **accessory after the fact** formerly, a person who helps a criminal after a crime had been committed □ **accessory before the fact** a person who helps a criminal before a crime is committed

accident /'æksɪd(ə)nt/ *noun* something unpleasant which happens suddenly, often as the result of a mistake, such as the crash of a vehicle or plane or other event resulting in injury or death or damage to something

accidental /ˌæksɪ'dent(ə)l/ *adjective* happening as an accident, or without being planned ○ *a case of accidental death*

accident insurance /ˌæksɪd(ə)nt ɪn 'ʃʊərəns/ *noun* insurance which pays money if an accident takes place

accident policy /ˌæksɪd(ə)nt 'pɒlɪsi/ *noun* an insurance policy which pays money if an accident takes place

accommodation /əˌkɒmə'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a place to live or somewhere to stay for a short time (NOTE: In British English, **accommodation** has no plural.)

accommodation address /əˌkɒmə 'deɪʃ(ə)n əˌdres/ *noun* an address used for receiving messages that is not the address of the company's offices

accomplice /ə'kʌmplɪs/ *noun* somebody who helps another to commit a

crime or who commits a crime with another person

accordance /ə'kɔːd(ə)ns/ *noun* □ **in accordance with** in a way that agrees with something that has been suggested or decided ○ *In accordance with your instructions we have deposited the money in your current account.* ○ *I am submitting the claim for damages in accordance with the advice of our legal advisers.*

accord and satisfaction /əˌkɔːd ən sætɪs'fækʃən/ *noun* **1.** the payment by a debtor of a debt or part of a debt **2.** the performing by a debtor of some act or service which is accepted by the creditor in full settlement, so that the debtor is no longer liable under the contract

accordingly /ə'kɔːdɪŋli/ *adverb* in agreement with what has been decided ○ *We have received your letter and have altered the contract accordingly.*

according to /ə'kɔːdɪŋ tuː/ *preposition* **1.** as someone says or writes ○ *According to the witness, the accused carried the body on the back seat of his car.* ○ *The payments were made according to the maintenance order.* **2.** in agreement with a rule or system **3.** in relation to

account /ə'kaʊnt/ *noun* **1.** a record of money paid or owed ○ *please send me your account* or *a detailed* or *an itemised account* □ **action for an account** court action to establish how much money is owed by one party to another **2.** an arrangement which a customer has with a shop or supplier to buy goods and pay for them at a later date, usually the end of the month **3.** a customer who does a large amount of business with a firm and has a credit account with that firm **4.** a notice or attention □ **to take account of the age of the accused**, **to take the accused's age into account when passing sentence** to pass a (lighter) sentence because the accused is very old or very young ■ *plural noun* **accounts** a detailed record of a company's financial affairs ■ *verb* □ **to account for** to explain and record a money deal ○ *to account for a loss* or *a discrepancy*

accountability /əˌkaʊntə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the fact of being responsible for something

accountable /ə'kaʊntəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being responsible for what takes place and needing to be able to explain why it has happened ○ *If money is lost, the person at the cash desk is held accountable.* ○ *The group leader will be held accountable for the actions of the group.*

account of profit /əˌkaʊnt əv 'prɒfɪt/ *noun* in copyright law, an assessment showing how much profit has been made on the sales of goods which infringe a copyright or patent, because the plaintiff claims the profit made by the defendant

accounts payable /əˌkaʊnts 'peɪəb(ə)l/ *noun* money owed to creditors

accounts receivable /əˌkaʊnts rɪ 'siːvəb(ə)l/ *noun* money owed by debtors

accredited /ə'kredɪtɪd/ *adjective* (*of an agent*) appointed by a company to act on its behalf (NOTE: A person is accredited **to** an organisation.)

accusation /ˌækjuː'zeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of saying that someone has committed a crime

accusatorial procedure /əˌkjuːzətɔːriəl prə'siːdʒə/ *noun* a procedure in countries using common law procedures, where the parties to a case have to find the evidence themselves. Compare **inquisitorial procedure**. ◊ **burden of proof**

accuse /ə'kjuːz/ *verb* **1.** to say that someone has committed a crime ○ *She was accused of stealing £25 from her boss.* ○ *He was accused of murder.* ○ *Of what has she been accused?* or *What has she been accused of?* (NOTE: You accuse someone **of** a crime.) **2.** to charge someone with a crime

accused /ə'kjuːzd/ *noun* □ **the accused** the person or persons charged with a crime ○ *All the accused pleaded not guilty.* ○ *The police brought the accused, a young man, into the court.*

acknowledge /ək'nɒlɪdʒ/ *verb* **1.** to accept that something is true **2.** to admit that a debt is owing **3.** to confirm that a letter has been received □ **to acknowledge service** to confirm that a legal doc-

ument such as a claim form has been received

acknowledged and agreed /ək ˌnɒlɪdʒd ən əˈgriːd/ *phrase* words written on an agreement to show that it has been read and approved

acknowledgement of service /ək ˌnɒlɪdʒmənt əv ˈsɜːvɪs/ *noun* a document whereby a defendant confirms that a claim form or other legal document has been received and that he or she intends to contest the claim

acquiescence /ˌækwiˈes(ə)ns/ *noun* consent which is either given directly or is implied (NOTE: There is a distinction between mere knowledge of a situation and positive consent to it. The latter is required in order to constitute acquiescence.)

acquit /əˈkwɪt/ *verb* to set a person free because he or she has been found not guilty ○ *He was acquitted of the crime.* ○ *The court acquitted two of the accused.* (NOTE: **acquitting – acquitted**. Note also that you acquit someone **of** a crime.)

acquittal /əˈkwɪt(ə)l/ *noun* the act of acquitting someone of a crime ○ *After his acquittal he left the court smiling.*

COMMENT: There is no appeal against an acquittal, and a person who has been acquitted of a crime cannot be charged with the same crime again.

act /ækt/ *noun* a statute which has been approved by a law-making body (NOTE: Before an Act becomes law, it is presented to Parliament in the form of a Bill. See notes at **bill**.)

acte clair /ˌækt ˈkleə/ *noun* (*in the EU*) French legal term meaning that a legal question is clear and there can be no doubt about it

action /ˈækʃən/ *noun* **1.** a proceeding heard in the civil court allowing an individual to pursue a legal right □ **action in personam** a court case in which one party claims that the other should do some act or should pay damages □ **action in rem** a court case in which one party claims property or goods in the possession of the other □ **action in tort** a court case brought by a claimant who alleges he or she has suffered damage or harm caused by the defendant □ **to take legal action** to begin a legal case, e.g. to instruct a solicitor or to sue someone **2.** something that is done, or the doing of something ○ *action to prevent the information becoming public* □ **to take action** to do something ○ *They should have taken immediate action to prevent a similar accident happening.*

actionable /ˈækʃənəb(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to writing, speech or an act which could provide the grounds for bringing a legal case against someone □ **torts which are actionable per se** torts which are in themselves sufficient grounds for bringing an action without the need to prove that damage has been suffered

actionable per se /ˌækʃənəb(ə)l pɜː ˈsaɪ/ *adjective* being in itself sufficient grounds for bringing an action

active partner /ˌæktɪv ˈpɑːtnə/ *noun* a partner who works in a partnership

activist /ˈæktɪvɪst/ *noun* a person who works actively for a political party, usually a person who is in disagreement with the main policies of the party or whose views are more extreme than those of the mainstream of the party ○ *The meeting was disrupted by an argument between the chairman and left-wing activists.* ○ *Party activists have urged the central committee to adopt a more radical approach to the problems of unemployment.*

act of God /ˌækt əv ˈgɒd/ *noun* a natural disaster which you do not expect to happen, and which cannot be avoided, e.g. a storm or a flood. ◊ **force majeure** (NOTE: Acts of God are usually not covered by an insurance policy.)

Act of Parliament /ˌækt əv ˈpɑːləmənt/ *noun* a decision which has been approved by Parliament and so becomes law

actual bodily harm /ˌæktʃuəl ˈbɒdɪli hɑːm/ *noun* the offence of causing injury to an individual by attacking them. The injury does not have to be serious or permanent but it must be more than just a scratch. Abbreviation **ABH**

actual loss /ˌæktʃuəl ˈlɒs/ *noun* real loss or damage which can be shown to have been suffered

actual notice /ˌæktʃuəl 'nəʊtɪs/ *noun* real knowledge which someone has of something

actual possession /ˌæktʃuəl pə 'zeʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the situation of occupying and controlling land and buildings

actual total loss /ˌæktʃuəl 'təʊt(ə)l lɒs/ *noun* a loss where the item insured has been destroyed or damaged beyond repair and can no longer be used for its intended purpose

actual value /ˌæktʃuəl 'vælju:/ *noun* the real value of something if sold on the open market

actuarial /ˌæktʃu'eəriəl/ *adjective* calculated by an actuary ○ *The premiums are worked out according to actuarial calculations.*

actuary /'æktʃuəri/ *noun* a person employed by an insurance company to calculate premiums

actus reus /ˌæktəs 'reɪəs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'guilty act': an act which is forbidden by the criminal law, one of the two elements of a crime. Compare **mens rea**. ◊ **crime**

addicted /ə'dɪktɪd/ *adjective* unable to stop doing something □ **addicted to alcohol** or **drugs** being unable to live without taking alcohol or drugs regularly

address /ə'dres/ *noun* **1.** the details of number, street and town where an office is or where a person lives □ **address for service** an address where court documents such as pleadings can be sent to a party in a case **2.** a formal speech ○ *In his address to the meeting, the mayor spoke of the problems facing the town.* □ **address of thanks** a formal speech, thanking someone for doing something, e.g. thanking a VIP for opening a new building, thanking the Queen for reading the Queen's Speech ■ *verb* **1.** to write the details of an address on an envelope ○ *an incorrectly addressed package* **2.** to speak to someone ○ *The defendant asked permission to address the court.* ○ *The chairman addressed the meeting.* **3.** to speak about a particular issue ○ *He then addressed the question of the late arrival of notification.* □ **to address oneself to a problem** to deal with a particular problem ○ *The government will have to address itself to problems of international trade.*

address list /ə'dres lɪst/ *noun* a list of names and addresses of people and companies

adduce /ə'dju:s/ *verb* to offer something as a reason or proof □ **to adduce evidence** to bring evidence before a court

adeem /ə'di:m/ *verb* to remove a legacy from a will because the item mentioned no longer exists, e.g. in the case when the person who made the will sold the item before they died)

ademption /ə'dempʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of removing a legacy from a will, because the item concerned no longer exists

ad hoc /ˌæd 'hɒk/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'for this particular purpose' □ **an ad hoc committee** a committee set up to study a particular problem. ◊ **standing**

ad idem /ˌæd 'aɪdem/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'in agreement'

adjective law /'ædʒɪktɪv lɔ:/ *noun* an area of law which deals with practices and procedures in the courts

adjoin /ə'dʒɔɪn/ *verb* (*of a property*) to touch another property ○ *The developers acquired the old post office and two adjoining properties.* ○ *The fire spread to the adjoining property.*

adjoining /ə'dʒɔɪnɪŋ/ *adjective* next to and touching something else ○ *adjoining properties*

adjourn /ə'dʒɜ:n/ *verb* **1.** to stop a meeting for a period ○ *to adjourn a meeting* ○ *The meeting adjourned at midday.* □ **to adjourn sine die** to adjourn without saying when the next meeting will be ○ *The hearing was adjourned sine die.* **2.** to put off a legal hearing to a later date ○ *The chairman adjourned the tribunal until three o'clock.* ○ *The appeal was adjourned for affidavits to be obtained.*

adjournment /ə'dʒɜ:nmənt/ *noun* **1.** an act of adjourning ○ *The adjournment lasted two hours.* ○ *The defendant has applied for an adjournment.* □ **adjournment sine die** adjournment without fixing a date for the next meeting (used in the US Congress to end a session) **2.** the

period during which a meeting has been adjourned

adjudicate /ə'dʒuːdɪkeɪt/ *verb* to give a judgment between two parties in law ○ *to adjudicate a claim* ○ *to adjudicate in a dispute* ○ *Magistrates may be paid expenses when adjudicating.* □ **he was adjudicated bankrupt** he was declared legally bankrupt

adjudication /əˌdʒuːdɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of giving a judgment or of deciding a legal problem

adjudication order /əˌdʒuːdɪ 'keɪʃ(ə)n ˌɔːdə/ *noun* an order by a court making someone bankrupt

adjudication tribunal /əˌdʒuːdɪ 'keɪʃ(ə)n traɪˌbjuːn(ə)l/ *noun* a group which adjudicates in industrial disputes

adjudicator /ə'dʒuːdɪkeɪtə/ *noun* somebody who gives a decision on a problem ○ *an adjudicator in an industrial dispute*

adjust /ə'dʒʌst/ *verb* to change something to fit new conditions, especially to calculate and settle an insurance claim

adjuster /ə'dʒʌstə/**, adjustor** *noun* somebody who calculates losses for an insurance company

adjustment /ə'dʒʌstmənt/ *noun* **1.** an act of adjusting **2.** a slight change

adjustor /ə'dʒʌstə/ *noun* same as **adjuster**

ad litem /ˌæd 'liːtəm/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'referring to the case at law'

administer /əd'mɪnɪstə/ *verb* **1.** to be responsible for providing, organising or managing something □ **to administer justice** to provide justice □ **to administer an oath** to make someone swear an oath **2.** to give someone a medicine, drug or medical treatment ○ *She was accused of administering a poison to the old lady.*

administration /ədˌmɪnɪ'streɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the organisation, control or management of something such as of the affairs of someone who has died, e.g. payment of liabilities, collection of assets or distributing property to the rightful people shown in the will □ **the administration of justice** providing justice

administration bond /ədˌmɪnɪ 'streɪʃ(ə)n bɒnd/ *noun* an oath sworn by an administrator that he or she will pay the state twice the value of the estate being administered, if it is not administered in accordance with the law

administration order /ədˌmɪnɪ 'streɪʃ(ə)n ˌɔːdə/ *noun* an order by a court, appointing someone to administer the estate of someone who is not able to meet the obligations of a court order

administrative /əd'mɪnɪstrətɪv/ *adjective* referring to administration

administrative law /əd'mɪnɪstrətɪv lɔː/ *noun* law relating to how government organisations affect the lives and property of individuals

administrative tribunal /əd ˌmɪnɪstrətɪv traɪ'bjuːn(ə)l/ *noun* a tribunal which decides in cases where government regulations affect and harm the lives and property of individuals

administrator /əd'mɪnɪstreɪtə/ *noun* **1.** somebody who arranges the work of other employees in a business so that the business functions well **2.** a person appointed by a court to represent a person who has died without making a will or without naming executors, and who is recognised in law as able to manage the estate

administratrix /əd'mɪnɪstrətrɪks/ *noun* a woman appointed by a court to administer the estate of a person who has died

Admiralty /'ædm(ə)rəlti/ *noun* the British government office which is in charge of the Navy

Admiralty Court /'ædm(ə)rəlti kɔːt/ *noun* a court, part of the Queen's Bench Division, which decides in disputes involving ships

Admiralty law /'ædm(ə)rəlti lɔːw/ *noun* law relating to ships and sailors, and actions at sea

admissibility /ədˌmɪsə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the fact of being admissible ○ *The court will decide on the admissibility of the evidence.*

admissible /əd'mɪsəb(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to evidence which a court will allow to be used ○ *The documents were not considered relevant to the case and were therefore not admissible.*

admission /əd'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** permission for someone to go in ○ *free admission on Sundays* ○ *There is a £1 admission charge.* ○ *Admission is free on presentation of this card.* **2.** making a statement that you agree that some facts are correct, saying that something really happened **3.** (*in civil cases*) a statement by a defendant that a claim or part of a claim by the claimant is true ○ *When a party has made an admission in writing, the other party can apply for judgment on that admission.*

admission charge /əd'mɪʃ(ə)n tʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* the price to be paid before going into an exhibition, etc.

admit /əd'mɪt/ *verb* **1.** to allow someone to go in ○ *Children are not admitted to the bank.* ○ *Old age pensioners are admitted at half price.* **2.** to allow someone to practise as a solicitor ○ *She was admitted in 1989.* **3.** to allow evidence to be used in court ○ *The court agreed to admit the photographs as evidence.* **4.** to agree that an allegation is correct ○ *She admitted having stolen the car.* ○ *He admitted to being in the house when the murder took place.* (NOTE: **admitted – admitting**. Note also that you admit **to** something, or admit **having done** something.) **5.** to say that something really happened ○ *He admitted his mistake* or *his liability.*

adopt /ə'dɒpt/ *verb* **1.** to become the legal parent of a child who was born to other parents **2.** to accept something so that it becomes law ○ *to adopt a resolution* ○ *The proposals were adopted unanimously.*

adoption /ə'dɒpʃən/ *noun* **1.** the act of becoming the legal parent of a child which is not your own **2.** the act of agreeing to something so that it becomes legal ○ *He moved the adoption of the resolution.*

adoption order /əˌdɒpʃən 'ɔːdə/ *noun* an order by a court which legally transfers the rights of the natural parents to the adoptive parents

adoption proceedings /əˌdɒpʃən prə'siːdɪŋz/ *plural noun* court action to adopt someone

adoptive /ə'dɒptɪv/ *adjective* resulting from the process of adoption, or from choice ○ *his adoptive country*

adoptive child /ə'dɒptɪv tʃaɪld/ *noun* a child who has been adopted

adoptive parent /əˌdɒptɪv 'peərənt/ *noun* a person who has adopted a child. Compare **biological parent** (NOTE: If a child's parents divorce, or if one parent dies, the child may be adopted by a step-father or step-mother.)

ADR *noun* same as **alternative dispute resolution**

adult /'ædʌlt, ə'dʌlt/ *noun* a person who is eighteen years old or older

adulteration /əˌdʌltə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the addition of material to food for sale, which makes it dangerous to eat or drink

adulterous /ə'dʌlt(ə)rəs/ *adjective* referring to adultery ○ *He had an adulterous relationship with Miss X.*

adultery /ə'dʌlt(ə)ri/ *noun* sexual intercourse by consent between a married person and someone of the opposite sex who is not that person's spouse ○ *His wife accused him of committing adultery with Miss X.*

ad valorem /ˌæd və'lɔːrəm/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'according to value'

ad valorem duty /ˌæd və'lɔːrəm ˌdjuːti/ *noun* a tax calculated according to the value of the goods taxed

advance /əd'vɑːns/ *noun* □ **in advance** before something happens ○ *to pay in advance* ○ *freight payable in advance* ■ *adjective* early ○ *advance booking* ○ *advance payment* ○ *You must give seven days' advance notice of withdrawals from the account.*

advancement /əd'vɑːnsmənt/ *noun* money or goods given by a parent to a child which the child would inherit in any case if the parent died

advantage /əd'vɑːntɪdʒ/ *noun* something useful which may help you to be successful □ **to learn something to your advantage** to hear news which is helpful to you, especially to hear that you have been left a legacy □ **obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception** the offence of deceiving someone so as to derive a financial benefit

adversarial /ˌædvɜːˈseəriəl/ *adjective* based on people opposing each other

adversarial procedure /ˌædvɜːˌseəriəl ˈprɒsɪdʒə/ *noun* same as **accusatorial procedure**

adversary /ˈædvəs(ə)ri/ *noun* an opponent in a court case ■ *adjective* □ **adversary procedure** same as **accusatorial procedure**

adverse /ˈædvɜːs/ *adjective* contrary, which goes against one party

adverse outcome /ˌædvɜːs ˈaʊtkʌm/ *noun* a result which was unexpected and unwanted

adverse party /ˌædvɜːs ˈpɑːtɪ/ *noun* the opponent in a court case

adverse possession /ˌædvɜːs pə ˈzeʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an occupation of property by squatters or others that is contrary to the rights of the real owner

adverse witness /ˌædvɜːs ˈwɪtnəs/ *noun* a witness called by one party in a court case whose evidence goes unexpectedly against that party. Such a witness can then be cross-examined as if the evidence were being given for the other party in the case.

advert /ˈædvɜːt/ *verb* to refer to ○ *This case was not adverted to in Smith v. Jones Machines Ltd.*

advice /ədˈvaɪs/ *noun* an opinion as to what action should be taken □ **as per advice** according to what is written on an advice note □ **counsel's advice** the opinion of a barrister about a case ○ *we sent the documents to the police on the advice of the solicitor* or *we took the solicitor's advice and sent the documents to the police* □ **to take legal advice** to ask a lawyer to advise about a problem in law

advice note /ədˈvaɪs nəʊt/ *noun* a written notice to a customer giving details of goods ordered and shipped but not yet delivered

advise /ədˈvaɪz/ *verb* **1.** to give a professional legal opinion on something such as the strengths and weaknesses of a case **2.** to suggest to someone what should be done ○ *We are advised to take the shipping company to court.* ○ *The solicitor advised us to send the documents to the police.* □ **to advise against something** to suggest that something should not be done ○ *The bank manager advised against closing the account.* ○ *Our lawyers have advised against suing the landlord.*

advisement /ədˈvaɪzmənt/ *noun* □ **to take something under advisement** to consider something in order to make a judgment

adviser /ədˈvaɪzə/**, advisor** *noun* somebody who suggests what should be done ○ *He is consulting the company's legal adviser.*

advisory /ədˈvaɪz(ə)ri/ *adjective* as an adviser ○ *She is acting in an advisory capacity.*

advisory board /ədˈvaɪz(ə)ri ˌbɔːd/ *noun* a group of advisers

Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service /ədˌvaɪz(ə)ri kənˌsɪliˌeɪʃ(ə)n ənˌɑːbɪˌtreɪʃ(ə)n ˈsɜːvɪs/ *noun* a government body which assists in furthering industrial relations and settling industrial and employment disputes. Abbreviation **ACAS**

advocacy /ˈædvəkəsi/ *noun* **1.** the skill of pleading a case orally before a court ○ *his advocacy of the right of these illegal immigrants to remain in the country* **2.** support for a cause

advocate *noun* /əˈbjuːs/ **1.** a person, usually a barrister or solicitor, with right of audience (i.e. the right to speak in open court) as the representative of a party in a case ○ *Fast track trial costs include the cost of a party's advocate in preparing the case and appearing in court.* (NOTE: Solicitors who take additional exams may qualify as solicitor-advocates and have the same rights of audience as barristers.) **2.** *US* a legal practitioner **3.** a barrister or solicitor who may argue a case for their client during legal proceedings. Both barristers and solicitors can acquire rights of audience (i.e. the right to speak in open court), but a solicitor's right of audience is limited to the magistrates and county courts. ■ *verb* /ˈædvəkeɪt/ to suggest a course of action

Advocate General /ˌædvəkət ˈdʒen(ə)rəl/ *noun* **1.** one of the two Law Officers for Scotland (NOTE: The position of the Advocates General is equal to that of the fifteen judges in the Euro-

pean Court of Justice; their role is to give careful advice on legal matters.) **2.** one of eight independent members forming part of the European Court of Justice together with 15 judges, who summarises and presents a case to the judges to assist them in coming to a decision (NOTE: The plural is **Advocates General**.)

advowson /əd'vaʊz(ə)n/ *noun* the right to nominate a person to be a parish priest

affair /ə'feə/ *noun* **1.** something which is relevant to one person or group of people only ○ *Are you involved in the copyright affair?* ○ *It's an affair for the police.* **2.** a sexual relationship where one party or both parties are married to someone else □ **to have an affair with someone** to commit adultery ■ *plural noun* **affairs** situations or activities relating to public or private life ○ *His affairs were so difficult to understand that the lawyers had to ask accountants for advice.*

affidavit /ˌæfɪ'deɪvɪt/ *noun* a written statement which is signed and sworn before a solicitor, judge, JP, commissioner for oaths or other official and which can then be used as evidence in court hearings

affiliation order /əˌfɪli'eɪʃ(ə)n ˌɔːdə/ *noun* formerly, a court order which made the father of an illegitimate child contribute towards the cost of the child's upbringing (NOTE: It is now replaced by the provisions of the Family Law Reform Act 1987.)

affiliation proceedings /əˌfɪli 'eɪʃ(ə)n prəˌsiːdɪŋz/ *plural noun* formerly, the proceedings needed to order the father of an illegitimate child to provide for the child's maintenance (NOTE: They are now replaced by the provisions in the Family Law Reform Act 1987.)

affirm /ə'fɜːm/ *verb* **1.** to state that you will tell the truth, though without swearing an oath **2.** to confirm that something is correct

affirmation /ˌæfə'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a statement in court that you will tell the truth, though without swearing an oath (NOTE: It is similar to an affidavit, but is not sworn on oath.) **2.** a written statement which is affirmed as true by the person making it **3.** a statement by an MP of his or her allegiance to the Queen when not wishing to take the Oath of Allegiance on religious or other grounds

affirmative action /əˌfɜːmətɪv 'ækʃən/ *noun US* a policy of positive discrimination to help groups in society who have a disadvantage (NOTE: The British equivalent is **equal opportunity**.)

affirmative easement /əˌfɜːmətɪv 'iːzmənt/ *noun US* an easement where the servient owner allows the dominant owner to do something

affix /ə'fɪks/ *verb* to attach something such as a signature to a document

affray /ə'freɪ/ *noun* the offence of intentionally acting in a threatening way towards someone in public

COMMENT: A person is guilty of affray if he uses or threatens to use unlawful violence towards another, and his conduct is such that a reasonable person who happened to be present might fear for his safety.

AFO *abbreviation* assault on a federal officer

aforementioned /ə'fɔːmenʃənd/ *adjective* having been mentioned earlier ○ *the aforementioned company*

aforesaid /ə'fɔːsed/ *adjective* said earlier □ **as aforesaid** as was stated earlier

aforethought /ə'fɔːθɔːt/ *adjective* □ **with malice aforethought** with the intention of committing a crime, especially murder

a fortiori /ˌeɪ ˌfɔːti'ɔːraɪ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'for a stronger reason' ○ *If the witness was present at the scene of the crime, then a fortiori he must have heard the shot.*

after the event /ˌɑːftə ðə ɪ'vent/ *adjective* □ **after the event insurance policy** a policy to cover the recovery of costs in case of failure in a case where a conditional fee arrangement is applied

age /eɪdʒ/ *noun* the number of years someone has lived. ◊ **age of consent, age of criminal responsibility**

age discrimination /'eɪdʒ dɪskrɪmɪ ˌneɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun US* the unfair treatment of people because of their age

age limit /'eɪdʒ ˌlɪmɪt/ *noun* the top age at which you are permitted to do something

agency /'eɪdʒənsi/ *noun* **1.** an arrangement where one person or company acts on behalf of another person in contractual matters ○ *They signed an agency agreement* or *an agency contract.* **2.** the office or job of representing another company in an area **3.** a branch of government ○ *the Atomic Energy Agency* ○ *a counter-intelligence agency*

agent /'eɪdʒənt/ *noun* **1.** somebody who represents a company or another person in matters relating to contracts **2.** the person in charge of an agency ○ *advertising agent* ○ *estate agent* ○ *travel agent* **3.** somebody who works for a government agency, especially in secret

agent provocateur /ˌæʒɒn prə ˌvɒkə'tɜːr/ *noun* a person who provokes others to commit a crime, often by taking part in it personally, in order to find out who is not reliable or in order to have his or her victim arrested

age of consent /ˌeɪdʒ əv kən'sent/ *noun* the age at which a girl can legally consent to sexual intercourse. The age of consent is 16.

age of criminal responsibility /ˌeɪdʒ əv ˌkrɪmɪn(ə)l rɪˌspɒnsɪ'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the age at which a person is considered to be capable of committing a crime

aggravated /'ægrəveɪtɪd/ *adjective* made worse

aggravated assault /ˌægrəveɪtɪd ə 'sɒlt/ *noun* assault causing serious injury or carried out in connection with another serious crime

aggravated burglary /ˌægrəveɪtɪd 'bɜːgləri/ *noun* burglary where guns or other offensive weapons are carried or used

aggravated damages /ˌægrəveɪtɪd 'dæmɪdʒɪz/ *plural noun* damages awarded by a court against a defendant who has behaved maliciously or wilfully

aggravating circumstances /ˌægrəveɪtɪŋ 'sɜːkəmstænsɪz/ *noun* circumstances which make a crime worse

aggravation /ˌægrə'veɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an action, especially the carrying of a weapon, which makes a crime more serious

aggrieved /ə'griːvd/ *adjective* injured or harmed by the actions of a defendant ○ *the aggrieved party*

AGM *abbreviation* Annual General Meeting

agree /ə'griː/ *verb* **1.** to approve or accept something ○ *The figures were agreed between the two parties.* ○ *Terms of the contract are still to be agreed.* **2.** □ **to agree to do something** to say that you will do something □ **to agree with someone** to say that your opinions are the same as someone else's □ **to agree with something** to be the same as something else ○ *The witness' statement does not agree with that of the accused.*

agreed /ə'griːd/ *adjective* having been accepted by everyone ○ *an agreed amount* ○ *on agreed terms* or *on terms which have been agreed upon*

agreed price /əˌgriːd 'praɪs/ *noun* the price which has been accepted by both the buyer and seller

agreement /ə'griːmənt/ *noun* **1.** a contract between two people or groups where one party makes an offer, and the other party accepts it ○ *written agreement* ○ *unwritten* or *oral agreement* ○ *to break an agreement* ○ *to reach an agreement* or *to come to an agreement on prices* or *salaries* ○ *an international agreement on trade* ○ *collective wage agreement* ○ *an agency agreement* ○ *a marketing agreement* ◊ **gentleman's agreement** □ **agreement in principle** agreement with the basic conditions of a proposal **2.** a document setting out the contractual terms agreed between two parties, ○ *to witness an agreement* ○ *to draw up* or *to draft an agreement* ○ *Both companies signed the agreement.*

aid /eɪd/ *noun* help □ **to pray in aid** to rely on something when pleading a case ○ *I pray in aid the Statute of Frauds in support of the defendant's case* ■ *verb* to help □ **to aid and abet** to help and encourage someone to commit a crime

aiding and abetting /ˌeɪdɪŋ ənd ə 'betɪŋ/ *noun* the act of helping and encouraging someone to commit a crime such as driving a car to help a criminal escape from the scene of a crime or keep-

ing watch while a crime is committed. ◊ **accessory**

air rage /'eə reɪdʒ/ *noun* a violent attack by a passenger on a member of the crew of an aircraft, caused by drink, tiredness or annoyance at something

a. k. a. *abbreviation* also known as

al. ◗ **et al.**

aleatory /ˌæli'eɪtəri/ *adjective* **1.** not certain **2.** carrying a risk

aleatory contract /ˌælieɪtəri 'kɒntrækt/ *noun* an agreement such as a wager where what is done by one party depends on something happening which is not certain to happen

alia ◗ **et al., inter alia**

alias /'eɪliəs/ *noun* a name which you use to hide your real name ○ *The confidence trickster used several aliases.* ■ *adverb* using the name of ○ *John Smith, alias Reginald Jones*

alibi /'ælɪbaɪ/ *noun* a plea that a person charged with a crime was somewhere else when the crime was committed

alien /'eɪliən/ *noun* a person who is not a citizen of a country (NOTE: In the UK, an alien is a person who is not a UK citizen, not a citizen of a Commonwealth country and not a citizen of the Republic of Ireland.)

alien absconder /ˌeɪliən əb'skɒndə/ *noun* an illegal foreign visitor to the United States who has been told to leave the country but has not done so

alienation /ˌeɪliə'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the transfer of property, usually land, to someone else

alienation of affection /ˌeɪliəneɪʃ(ə)n əv ə'fekʃən/ *noun US* the loss of affection by one of the partners in a marriage for the other

alieni juris /eɪliˌenaɪ 'dʒuːrɪs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'of another's right': a person such as a minor who has a right under the authority of a guardian. Compare **sui generis**

alimony /'ælɪməni/ *noun* the money that a court orders a husband to pay regularly to his separated or divorced wife (NOTE: It can occasionally be applied to a wife who is ordered to support her divorced husband.) ▫ **alimony pending suit**, **alimony pendente lite** money paid by a husband to his wife while their divorce case is being prepared. ◊ **palimony**

allegation /ˌælə'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a statement, usually given in evidence, that something has happened or is true

allege /ə'ledʒ/ *verb* to state, usually in giving evidence, that something has happened or is true ○ *The prosecution alleged that the accused was in the house when the crime was committed.*

allegiance /ə'liːdʒ(ə)ns/ *noun* obedience to the State or the Crown. ◊ **oath of allegiance**

All England Law Reports /ˌɔːl ˌɪŋlənd 'lɔː rɪˌpɔːts/ *plural noun* reports of cases in the higher courts. Abbreviation **All E.R.**

allocate /'ælə,keɪt/ *verb* to share something between several people, or decide officially how something is to be divided between different possibilities ▫ **to allocate a case to a track** (*of a court*) to decide which track a case should follow ○ *The court may allocate a case to a track of a higher financial value.*

allocation /ˌælə'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the division of a sum of money in various ways ○ *allocation of funds to research into crime* **2.** the act of deciding which of three systems of processing (small claims, fast track or multi-track) a case should follow, depending on the monetary value of the claim ○ *The allocation of a case to a particular track has implications for the speed with which the case will be processed.*

allocation hearing /ˌælə'keɪʃ(ə)n ˌhɪərɪŋ/ *noun* a court hearing to consider statements from the parties to a case and decide which system of processing (small claims, fast track or multi-track) a case should follow when an allocation questionnaire has not been submitted

allocation questionnaire /ˌælə 'keɪʃ(ə)n ˌkwestʃəneə/ *noun* a form to be filled in by each party to a claim, to give the court enough information to allow it to allocate the case to one of three systems of processing (small claims, fast track or multi-track)

allocatur /ˌælɒkeɪ'tuːə/ *phrase* a Latin word meaning 'it is allowed': a court document confirming the amount of

costs to be paid by one party to another after a court action

allocution /ˌælə'kjuːʃ(ə)n/ *noun US* a request by the judge to a person who has been found guilty, asking if they wants to say anything on their own behalf before sentence is passed

allow /ə'laʊ/ *verb* **1.** to say that someone can do something ○ *The law does not allow you to drive on the wrong side of the road.* ○ *Begging is not allowed in the station.* ○ *Visitors are not allowed into the prisoners' cells.* **2.** to give someone time or a privilege ○ *The court adjourned to allow the prosecution time to find the missing witness.* ○ *You are allowed thirty days to pay the fine.* **3.** to approve or accept something legally ○ *to allow a claim* or *an appeal* **4.** □ **allow for** to consider something when making a decision about something else ○ *In coming to our conclusion, we allowed for his poor knowledge of the language.*

allowable /ə'laʊəb(ə)l/ *adjective* legally accepted

allowable expenses /əˌlaʊəb(ə)l ɪk 'spensɪz/ *plural noun* expenses which can be claimed against tax

all-points bulletin /ˌɔːl 'pɔːints ˌbʊlətɪn/ *noun* an urgent message broadcast to all police in an area

alteram /'ɔːltərəm/ ◆ **audi alteram partem**

alteration /ˌɔːltə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a change made to a legal document such as a will, which usually has the effect of making it invalid

alternative /ɔːl'tɜːnətɪv/ *noun* something which takes the place of something else ○ *They argued that they had offered a similar car as an alternative.* □ **pleading in the alternative**, **alternative pleading** *US* the practice of making two or more pleadings which are mutually exclusive. ◊ **service by an alternative method** ■ *adjective* able to take the place of something else ○ *an alternative solution to the problem*

alternative dispute resolution /ɔːl ˌtɜːnətɪv dɪ'spjuːt ˌrezəluːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* any of various methods which can be used to settle a dispute without going to trial. Abbreviation **ADR**

ambassador /æm'bæsədə/ *noun* somebody who is the highest level of diplomat representing his or her country in another country ○ *our ambassador in France* ○ *She is the wife of the Spanish Ambassador.* ○ *The government has recalled its ambassador for consultations.*

ambassadorial /ˌæmbæsə'dɔːriəl/ *adjective* referring to an ambassador

ambassadress /æm'bæsədres/ *noun* an ambassador's wife

Amber alert /ˌæmbə ə'lɜːt/ *noun* a system of bulletins issued by police to the media, and in the USA sometimes also on electronic road signs, seeking information leading to the rapid return of a kidnapped child

ambiguity /ˌæmbɪ'gjuːɪti/ *noun* **1.** the fact of being unclear because it can be understood in different ways **2.** something which is unclear because it can be understood in different ways. ◊ **latent ambiguity**

ambiguous /æm'bɪgjuəs/ *adjective* meaning two or more things and therefore possibly misleading ○ *The wording of the clause is ambiguous and needs clarification.*

ambulatory /ˌæmbju'leɪt(ə)ri/ *adjective* (*of a will*) only taking effect after the death of the person who made it

COMMENT: Writing a will does not bind you to do what you say you are going to do in it. If in your will you leave your car to your son, and then sell the car before you die, your son has no claim on the will for the value of the car.

amend /ə'mend/ *verb* to change something ○ *Please amend your copy of the contract accordingly.*

amendment /ə'men(d)mənt/ *noun* **1.** a change made in a document ○ *to propose an amendment to the draft agreement* ○ *to make amendments to a contract* **2.** a change made to a statement of case, which in civil law can be done before the details of a claim are served **3.** a change proposed to a Bill which is being discussed in Parliament

amends /ə'mendz/ *plural noun* □ **to make amends** to do something to compensate for damage or harm done □ **offer of amends** an offer by a libeller to write an apology

American Bar Association /ə ˌmerɪkən 'bɑː əˌsəʊsieɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun US* an association of lawyers practising in the USA. Abbreviation **ABA**

amicus curiae /əˌmaɪkəs 'kjʊəriaɪ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'friend of the court': a lawyer who does not represent a party in a case but who is called upon to address the court to help clear up a difficult legal point or to explain something which is in the public interest

amnesty /'æmnəsti/ *noun* a pardon, often for political crimes, given to several people at the same time ■ *verb* to grant convicted persons a pardon ○ *They were amnestied by the president.*

anarchic /ə'nɑːkɪk/**, anarchical** /ə 'nɑːkɪkl/ *adjective* with no law or order ○ *the anarchic state of the country districts after the coup*

anarchism /'ænəkɪz(ə)m/ *noun* the belief that there should be no government or control of people by the state

anarchist /'ænəkɪst/ *noun* somebody who believes in anarchism

COMMENT: Anarchism flourished in the latter part of the 19th and early part of the 20th century. Anarchists believe that there should be no government, no army, no civil service, no courts, no laws, and that people should be free to live without anyone to rule them.

anarchy /'ænəki/ *noun* absence of law and order, because a government has lost control or because there is no government ○ *When the president was assassinated, the country fell into anarchy.*

ancestor /'ænsestə/ *noun* a person living many years ago from whom someone is descended □ **common ancestor** a person from whom two or more people are descended ○ *Mr Smith and the Queen have a common ancestor in King Charles II*

ancient lights /ˌeɪnʃənt 'laɪts/ *plural noun* a claim by the owner of a property that he or she has the right to enjoy light in his windows and not have it blocked by a neighbour's buildings

ancillary /æn'sɪləri/ *adjective* giving help or support

ancillary relief /ænˌsɪləri rɪ'liːf/ *noun* financial provision or adjustment of property rights ordered by a court for a spouse or child in divorce proceedings

animus /'ænɪməs/ *noun* intention

animus cancellandi /ˌænɪməs ˌkænsəl'ændaɪ/ *noun* the intention to cancel

animus furandi /ˌænɪməs ˌfjʊə 'rændaɪ/ *noun* the intention to steal

animus manendi /ˌænɪməs mæn 'nendaɪ/ *noun* the intention to stay in a place

animus revocandi /ˌænɪməs ˌrevə 'kændaɪ/ *noun* the intention to revoke a will

COMMENT: With all these terms, when the phrase is 'with the intention of', **animo** is used: e.g. *animo revocandi* 'with the intention of revoking a will'.

annexation /ˌænek'seɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of annexing a territory

annexe, annex *noun* a document added or attached to a contract ■ *verb* **1.** to attach a document to something **2.** to take possession of a territory which belongs to another state and attach it to your country, so taking full sovereignty over the territory ○ *The island was annexed by the neighbouring republic.* ○ *The war was caused by a dispute over the annexing of a strip of land.*

annual /'ænjuəl/ *adjective* for one year □ **on an annual basis** each year

Annual General Meeting /ˌænjuəl ˌdʒen(ə)rəl 'miːtɪŋ/ *noun* a meeting of the shareholders of a company which takes place once a year to approve the accounts. Abbreviation **AGM**

annually /'ænjuəli/ *adverb* each year ○ *The figures are revised annually.*

annual return /ˌænjuəl rɪ'tɜːn/ *noun* a form to be completed by each company once a year, giving details of the directors and the financial state of the company

annuitant /ə'njuːɪtənt/ *noun* somebody who receives an annuity

annuity /ə'njuːɪti/ *noun* money paid each year to a person, usually as the result of an investment ○ *to buy* or *to take out an annuity* ○ *He has a government annuity* or *an annuity from the government.*

annul /ə'nʌl/ *verb* **1.** to stop something having any legal effect ○ *The contract was annulled by the court.* **2.** to declare that something never existed or that something never had legal effect ○ *Their marriage has been annulled.* (NOTE: [all senses] **annulling – annulled**)

annullable /ə'nʌləb(ə)l/ *adjective* able to be cancelled

annulling /ə'nʌlɪŋ/ *adjective* cancelling ○ *annulling clause* ■ *noun* the act of cancelling ○ *the annulling of a contract*

annulment /ə'nʌlmənt/ *noun* the act of cancelling

annulment of adjudication /ə ˌnʌlmənt əv əˌdʒuːdɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the cancelling of an order making someone bankrupt

annulment of marriage /əˌnʌlmənt əv 'mærɪdʒ/ *noun* the act of ending a marriage by saying that it was never valid

annum /'ænəm/ ◆ **per annum**

answer /'ɑːnsə/ *noun* **1.** a spoken or written reply ○ *my letter got no answer* or *there was no answer to my letter* ○ *I am writing in answer to your letter of October 6th.* ○ *I tried to phone his office but there was no answer.* **2.** a formal reply to an allegation made in court, especially a defence made by a respondent to a divorce petition ■ *verb* **1.** to speak or write after someone has spoken or written to you □ **to answer a letter** to write a letter in reply to a letter which you have received □ **to answer the telephone** to lift the telephone when it rings and listen to what the caller is saying **2.** to reply formally to an allegation made in court □ **to answer charges** to plead guilty or not guilty to a charge □ **the judge ruled there was no case to answer** the judge ruled that the prosecution or the claimant had not shown that the accused or the defendant had done anything wrong

answerable /'ɑːns(ə)rəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being responsible for one's actions and having to explain why actions have been taken ○ *He is answerable to the Police Commissioner for the conduct of the officers in his force.* ○ *She refused to be held answerable for the consequences of the police committee's decision.* (NOTE: You are answerable **to** someone **for** an action.)

ante /'ænti/ *Latin adverb meaning* 'which has taken place earlier' or 'before'

antecedents /ˌæntɪ'siːd(ə)nts/ *plural noun* details of the background of a convicted person given to a court before sentence is passed

antedate /ˌæntɪ'deɪt/ *verb* to put an earlier date on a document ○ *The invoice was antedated to January 1st.*

anti- /ænti/ *prefix* against ○ *an anti-drug campaign* ○ *the anti-terrorist squad*

anticipatory /æn'tɪsɪpət(ə)ri/ *adjective* done before it is due

anticipatory breach /æn ˌtɪsɪpət(ə)ri 'briːtʃ/ *noun* a refusal by a party to a contract to perform his or her obligations under the contract at a time before they were due to be performed

antisocial behaviour /ˌæntisəʊʃ(ə)l bɪ'heɪvjə/ *noun* bad or unpleasant behaviour in public

Antisocial Behaviour Order /ˌæntisəʊʃ(ə)l bɪ'heɪvjə ˌɔːdə/ *noun* an order that can be applied for by the police against any individual over the age of 10 years old who is causing someone distress, harm or harassment, in order to restrict their behaviour. Abbreviation **ASBO**. ◊ **Acceptable Behaviour Contract** (NOTE: ASBOs are a provision of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.)

anti-trust /ˌænti 'trʌst/ *adjective* attacking monopolies and encouraging competition ○ *anti-trust laws* or *legislation*

Anton Piller order /ˌæntɒn 'pɪlər ˌɔːdə/ *noun* in a civil case, an order by a court allowing a party to inspect and remove a defendant's documents, especially where the defendant might destroy evidence (NOTE: So called after the case of *Anton Piller K.G. v. Manufacturing Processes Ltd.* Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has been replaced by **search order**.)

any other business /ˌeni ˌʌðə 'bɪznɪs/ *noun* an item at the end of an agenda, where any matter not already on

the agenda can be raised. Abbreviation **AOB**

apology /ə'pɒlədʒi/ *noun* a defence made to an action of defamation where the defendant argues that the offending statement was either made innocently or unintentionally (NOTE: Even if an apology is not accepted, the offer in itself will always be capable of reducing the amount of compensation awarded to the plaintiff.)

a posteriori /ˌeɪ pɒsteri'ɔːri/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'from what has been concluded afterwards' □ **a posteriori argument** an argument based on observation

apparent /ə'pærənt/ *adjective* easily visible, or obvious □ **apparent defect** a defect which can be easily seen

appeal /ə'piːl/ *noun* **1.** the act of asking a higher court to change a decision of a lower court ○ *the appeal from the court order* or *the appeal against the planning decision will be heard next month* ○ *He lost his appeal for damages against the company.* □ **to win a case on appeal** to lose a case in the first court, but to have the decision changed by an appeal court □ **appeal against conviction** the act of asking a higher court to change the decision of a lower court that a person is guilty □ **appeal against sentence** the act of asking a higher court to reduce a sentence imposed by a lower court **2.** the act of asking a government department to change a decision ■ *verb* to ask a government department to change its decision or a high law court to change a sentence ○ *The company appealed against the decision of the planning officers.* ○ *He has appealed to the Supreme Court.* (NOTE: You appeal **to** a court or **against** a decision, an appeal is **heard** and either **allowed** or **dismissed**.)

Appeal Court /ə'piːl kɔːt/ *noun* ➧ **Court of Appeal**

appear /ə'pɪə/ *verb* **1.** to seem ○ *The witness appeared to have difficulty in remembering what had happened.* **2.** (*of a party in a case*) to come to court **3.** (*of a barrister or solicitor*) to come to court to represent a client ○ *Mr A. Clark QC is appearing on behalf of the defendant.*

appearance /ə'pɪərəns/ *noun* the act of coming to court to defend or prosecute a case □ **to enter an appearance** to register with a court that a defendant intends to defend an action

appellant /ə'pelənt/ *noun* a person who goes to a higher court to ask it to change a decision or a sentence imposed by a lower court

appellate /ə'pelət/ *adjective* referring to appeal

appellate committee /ə'pelət kə ˌmɪti/ *noun* the upper house of the British Parliament, which is responsible for analysing legislation and hearing cases which have been referred to it by lower courts

appellate court /ə'pelət kɔːt/ *noun* ➧ **Court of Appeal**

appellate jurisdiction /əˌpelət ˌdʒʊərɪs'dɪkʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the power of a judge to hear appeals from a previous decision made by a lower court ○ *If the ECJ tries to decide if a national court's decision to refer a case to it is correct, then the ECJ is exercising a form of appellate jurisdiction.*

appendix /ə'pendɪks/ *noun* an additional piece of text at the end of a document ○ *The markets covered by the agency agreement are listed in the Appendix.* ○ *See Appendix B for the clear-up rates of notifiable offences.* (NOTE: The plural is **appendices**.)

applicant /'æplɪkənt/ *noun* **1.** somebody who applies for something ○ *an applicant for a job* or *a job applicant* ○ *There were thousands of applicants for shares in the new company.* **2.** somebody who applies for a court order

application /ˌæplɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act or process of asking for something, usually in writing ○ *application for shares* ○ *shares payable on application* ○ *application for a job* or *job application* **2.** the act of asking the Court to make an order ○ *His application for an injunction was refused.* ○ *Solicitors acting for the wife made an application for a maintenance order.*

COMMENT: Applications can now be dealt with by telephone (a 'telephone hearing'); urgent applications can be

made without making an application notice.

application form /ˌæplɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n ˌfɔːm/ *noun* a form to be filled in when applying ○ *to fill in an application form for a job* or *a job application form*

application notice /ˌæplɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n ˌnəʊtɪs/ *noun* a document by which an applicant applies for a court order. The notice must state what type of order is being sought and the reasons for seeking it. (NOTE: The phrase **applications made without notice being served on the other party** is now used instead of **ex parte applications**.)

apply /əˈplaɪ/ *verb* **1.** to ask for something, usually in writing ○ *to apply for a job* ○ *to apply for shares* ○ *to apply in writing* ○ *to apply in person* ○ *My client wishes to apply for Legal Aid.* ○ *He applied for judicial review* or *for compensation* or *for an adjournment.* □ **to apply to the Court** to ask the court to make an order ○ *he applied to the Court for an injunction* **2.** to affect or be relevant to something or someone ○ *This clause applies only to deals outside the EU.* ○ *The legal precedent applies to cases where the parents of the child are divorced.*

appoint /əˈpɔɪnt/ *verb* to choose someone for a job ○ *to appoint James Smith to the post of manager* ○ *The government has appointed a QC to head the inquiry.* ○ *The court appointed a receiver.* (NOTE: You appoint a person **to** a job or **to do** a job.)

appointee /əpɔɪnˈtiː/ *noun* somebody who is appointed to a job

appointment /əˈpɔɪntmənt/ *noun* **1.** an arrangement to meet someone ○ *to make* or *to fix an appointment for two o'clock* ○ *to make an appointment with someone for two o'clock* ○ *He was late for his appointment.* ○ *She had to cancel her appointment.* **2.** the act of appointing someone or being appointed to a job □ **on his appointment as magistrate** when he was made a magistrate **3.** a job □ **legal appointments vacant** list in a newspaper of legal jobs which are vacant

appointments book /əˈpɔɪntmənts bʊk/ *noun* a desk diary in which appointments are noted

apportion /əˈpɔːʃ(ə)n/ *verb* to share out something such as property, rights or liabilities in appropriate proportions ○ *Costs are apportioned according to planned revenue.*

apportionment /əˈpɔːʃ(ə)nmənt/ *noun* the act of sharing out such as property, rights or liabilities in appropriate proportions

appraise /əˈpreɪz/ *verb* to make an estimate of the value of something

appraiser /əˈpreɪzə/ *noun* somebody who appraises something

apprehend /ˌæprɪˈhend/ *verb* (*formal*) **1.** to understand ○ *I apprehend that you say your client has a reference.* **2.** to arrest and take into police custody ○ *The suspect was apprehended at the scene of the crime.*

apprehension /ˌæprɪˈhenʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of arresting someone (*formal*)

appropriate *adjective* /əˈprəʊpriət/ suitable for a particular purpose ○ *Is a fine an appropriate punishment for sex offences?* ■ *verb* /əˈprəʊprieɪt/ **1.** to take control of something illegally **2.** to take something for a particular use, e.g. taking funds from an estate to pay legacies to beneficiaries

appropriation /əˌprəʊpriˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the allocation of money for a particular purpose such as distributing parts of an estate to beneficiaries

approval /əˈpruːv(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** permission to do something given by someone with authority ○ *to submit a budget for approval* **2.** □ **on approval** a sale where the buyer pays for goods only if they are satisfactory

approve /əˈpruːv/ *verb* to agree to something officially ○ *to approve the terms of a contract* ○ *The proposal was approved by the board.* ○ *The motion was approved by the committee.* □ **to approve of** to think something is good

approved school /əˈpruːvd skuːl/ *noun* formerly, a school for young delinquents

appurtenances /əˈpɜːrtɪnənsɪz/ *plural noun* land or buildings attached to or belonging to a property

appurtenant /əˈpɜːrtɪnənt/ *adjective* relevant to

a priori /ˌeɪ praɪˈɔːri/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'from the first': using logic and reason to draw conclusions from what is already known □ **a priori argument** reasoning based on ideas or assumptions, not on real examples

arbitrate /ˈɑːbɪtreɪt/ *verb* (*usually used in building, shipping or employment disputes*) to settle a dispute between parties by referring it to an arbitrator instead of going to court ○ *to arbitrate in a dispute*

arbitration /ˌɑːbɪˈtreɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the settling of a dispute by an outside person or persons agreed on by both sides ○ *to submit a dispute to arbitration* ○ *to refer a question to arbitration* ○ *to take a dispute to arbitration* ○ *to go to arbitration*

arbitration agreement /ˌɑːbɪ ˈtreɪʃ(ə)n əˌgriːmənt/ *noun* an agreement by two parties to submit a dispute to arbitration

arbitration award /ˌɑːbɪˈtreɪʃ(ə)n əˌwɔːd/ *noun* a ruling given by an arbitrator

arbitration board /ˌɑːbɪˈtreɪʃ(ə)n bɔːd/ *noun* a group which arbitrates

arbitration clause /ˌɑːbɪˈtreɪʃ(ə)n klɔːz/ *noun* a written term in a contract, usually a commercial contracts, requiring anyone who is party to the contract to agree to refer any contractual disputes to arbitration

arbitrator /ˈɑːbɪtreɪtə/ *noun* a person not concerned with a dispute who is chosen by both sides to try to settle it ○ *an industrial arbitrator* ○ *to accept* or *to reject the arbitrator's ruling*

argue /ˈɑːgjuː/ *verb* **1.** to discuss something about which there is disagreement ○ *They argued over* or *about the price.* ○ *Counsel spent hours arguing about the precise meaning of the clause.* **2.** to give reasons for something ○ *Prosecuting counsel argued that the accused should be given exemplary sentences.* ○ *The police solicitor argued against granting bail.* (NOTE: You argue **with** someone **about** *or* **over** something.)

argument /ˈɑːgjʊmənt/ *noun* **1.** the discussion of something without agreement ○ *They got into an argument with the judge over the relevance of the documents to the case.* ○ *He sacked his solicitor after an argument over costs.* **2.** a speech giving reasons for something ○ *The judge found the defence arguments difficult to follow.* ○ *Counsel presented the argument for the prosecution.* ○ *The Court of Appeal was concerned that the judge at first instance had delivered judgment without proper argument.* (NOTE: can be used without **the**)

arise /əˈraɪz/ *verb* to happen as a result of something ○ *The situation has arisen because neither party is capable of paying the costs of the case.* ○ *The problem arises from the difficulty in understanding the regulations.*

armed neutrality /ˌɑːmd njuːˈtrælətɪ/ *noun* the condition of a country which is neutral during a war, but maintains armed forces to defend itself

armourer /ˈɑːmərə/ *noun* a criminal who supplies guns to other criminals (*slang*)

arm's length /ˌɑːmz ˈleŋθ/ *noun* □ **at arm's length** not closely connected □ **to deal with someone at arm's length** to deal as if there were no connection between the parties, e.g. when a company buys a service from one of its own subsidiaries ○ *The directors were required to deal with the receiver at arm's length.*

arraign /əˈreɪn/ *verb* to make an accused person appear in the court and read the indictment to him or her

arraignment /əˈreɪnmənt/ *noun* the act of reading of an indictment to the accused and hearing his or her plea

arrangement /əˈreɪndʒmənt/ *noun* **1.** a way in which something is organised ○ *The company secretary is making all the arrangements for the AGM.* **2.** the settling of a financial dispute, especially by proposing a plan for repaying creditors ○ *to come to an arrangement with the creditors*

arrears /əˈrɪəz/ *plural noun* money which has not been paid at the time when it was due ○ *to allow the payments to fall into arrears* □ **in arrears** owing money which should have been paid earlier ○ *The payments are six months in arrears.* ○ *He is six weeks in arrears with his rent.*

arrest /ə'rest/ *noun* an act of taking and keeping someone in custody legally, so that he or she can be questioned and perhaps charged with a crime □ **a warrant is out for his arrest** a magistrate has signed a warrant, giving the police the power to arrest someone for a crime □ **under arrest** kept and held by the police ○ *Six of the gang are in the police station under arrest.* ■ *verb* **1.** to hold someone legally so as to keep him or her in custody and charge them with a crime ○ *Two of the strikers were arrested.* ○ *The constable stopped the car and arrested the driver.* **2.** to seize a ship or its cargo **3.** to stop something from continuing

arrestable offence /ə,restəbl ə 'fens/ *noun* a crime for which someone can be arrested without a warrant, usually an offence which carries a penalty of at least five years' imprisonment

arrest of judgment /ə,rest əv 'dʒʌdʒmənt/ *noun* a situation where a judgment is held back because there appears to be an error in the documentation

arrest warrant /ə,rest 'wɒrənt/ *noun* a warrant signed by a magistrate which gives the police the power to arrest someone for a crime. ◊ **citizen's arrest**

COMMENT: Any citizen may arrest a person who is committing a serious offence, though members of the police force have wider powers, in particular the power to arrest persons on suspicion of a serious crime or in cases where an arrest warrant has been granted. Generally a policeman is not entitled to arrest someone without a warrant if the person does not know or is not told the reason for his arrest.

arson /'ɑːs(ə)n/ *noun* the notifiable offence of setting fire to a building ○ *He was charged with arson.* ○ *During the riot there were ten cases of looting and two of arson.* ○ *The police who are investigating the fire suspect arson.* □ **an arson attack on a house** setting fire to a house

arsonist /'ɑːs(ə)nɪst/ *noun* somebody who commits arson

article /'ɑːtɪk(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** a product or thing for sale ○ *a black market in imported articles of clothing* **2.** a section of a legal agreement ○ *See article 8 of the contract.* **3.** □ **articles of association**, **articles of incorporation** *US* document which regulates the way in which a company's affairs are managed **4.** □ **to serve articles** to work as an articled clerk in a solicitor's office

Article 81 /ˌɑːtɪk(ə)l ˌeɪti 'wʌn/ *noun* a provision contained in the Treaty of Rome designed to prevent agreements that aim to or effectively restrict, prevent or manipulate competition in the European Union (NOTE: Formerly known as Article 85.)

Article 82 /ˌɑːtɪk(ə)l ˌeɪti 'tuː/ *noun* a provision contained in the Treaty of Rome designed to prevent businesses abusing their position of dominance within the European Union

articled clerk /ˌɑːtɪk(ə)ld 'klɑːk/ *noun* formerly, a trainee who is bound by a contract to work in a solicitor's office for some years to learn the law (NOTE: Now called **trainee solicitor**.)

articles /'ɑːtɪk(ə)lz/ *noun* formerly, the period during which someone is working in a solicitor's office to learn the law (NOTE: Now called **traineeship**.)

articles of association /ˌɑːtɪk(ə)lz əv əˌsəʊsi'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a document which regulates the way in which a company's affairs such as the appointment of directors or rights of shareholders are managed. Also called **articles of incorporation**

articles of impeachment /ˌɑːtɪk(ə)lz əv ɪm'piːtʃmənt/ *noun US* a statement of the grounds on which a public official is to be impeached

articles of incorporation /ˌɑːtɪk(ə)lz əv ɪnˌkɔːpə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* same as **articles of association**

articles of partnership /ˌɑːtɪk(ə)lz əv 'pɑːtnəʃɪp/ *noun* a document which sets up the legal conditions of a partnership ○ *She is a director appointed under the articles of the company.* ○ *This procedure is not allowed under the articles of association of the company.*

artificial person /ˌɑːtɪfɪʃ(ə)l 'pɜːs(ə)n/ *noun* a body such as a company which is regarded as a person in law

ASBO *abbreviation* Antisocial Behaviour Order

ascendant /ə'sendənt/ *noun* the parent or grandparent of a person (NOTE: The opposite, the children or grandchildren of a person, are **descendants**.)

ask /ɑːsk/ *verb* **1.** to put a question to someone ○ *Prosecuting counsel asked the accused to explain why the can of petrol was in his car.* **2.** to tell someone to do something ○ *The police officers asked the marchers to go home.* ○ *She asked her secretary to fetch a file from the managing director's office.* ○ *The customs officials asked him to open his case.* ○ *The judge asked the witness to write the name on a piece of paper.* **3.** □ **to ask for something** to say that you want or need something ○ *He asked for the file on 1992 debtors.* ○ *Counsel asked for more time to consult with his colleagues.* ○ *There is a man on the phone asking for Mr Smith.* □ **to ask for bail to be granted** to ask a court to allow a prisoner to be remanded on bail

assassin /ə'sæsɪn/ *noun* someone who murders a well-known person

assassinate /ə'sæsɪneɪt/ *verb* to murder a well-known person

assassination /əˌsæsɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the murder of a well-known person

assault /ə'sɔːlt/ *verb* the crime or tort of acting in such a way that someone is afraid he or she will be attacked and hurt ○ *She was assaulted by two muggers.* ◊ **battery** ■ *noun* the offence of acting intentionally to make someone afraid that they will be attacked and hurt ○ *He was sent to prison for assault.* ○ *The number of cases of assault* or *the number of assaults on policemen is increasing.* (NOTE: As a crime or tort, assault has no plural. When it has a plural it means 'cases of assault'.)

COMMENT: Assault should be distinguished from battery, in that assault is the threat of violence, whereas battery is actual violence. However, because the two are so closely connected, the term 'assault' is frequently used as a general term for violence to a person. 'Aggravated assault' is assault causing serious injury or carried out in connection with another serious crime. The term 'common assault' is frequently used for any assault which is not an aggravated assault.

assaulter /ə'sɔːltə/ *noun* **1.** a member of a police hostage rescue team **2.** someone who attacks another person physically or verbally in a violent way

assay /'æseɪ, ə'seɪ/ *noun* a test of a precious metal such as gold or silver to see if it is of the right quality

assay mark /'æseɪ mɑːk/ *noun* a mark put on gold or silver items to show that the metal is of correct quality. Also called **hallmark**

assemble /ə'semb(ə)l/ *verb* **1.** to come together or to gather ○ *The crowd assembled in front of the police station.* **2.** to put something together from various parts ○ *The police are still assembling all the evidence.*

assembly /ə'semblɪ/ *noun* the action of people meeting together in a group. ◊ **freedom of assembly, unlawful assembly**

assemblyman /ə'semblimən/ *noun* a member of an assembly

Assembly of the European Community /əˌsembli əv ðə ˌjʊərəpiən kə 'mjuːnɪti/ *noun* the European Parliament

assent /ə'sent/ *noun* **1.** agreement to or approval of something **2.** notification by a personal representative that part of an estate is not needed for the administration of the estate and can be passed to the beneficiary named in the will (NOTE: The assent can be given verbally or in writing and applies to personal property and real estate.) ■ *verb* to agree to something ○ *The executor assented to the vesting of the property to the beneficiary.*

assent procedure /əˌsent prə 'siːdʒə/ *noun* a procedure by which the approval of the European Parliament is necessary before legislation can be put into law

assess /ə'ses/ *verb* to calculate the value of something, especially for tax or insurance purposes ○ *to assess damages at £1,000* ○ *to assess a property for the purposes of insurance*

assessment /ə'sesmənt/ *noun* a calculation of value ○ *assessment of damages* ○ *assessment of property* ○ *tax assessment*

assessment of costs /əˌsesmənt əv 'kɒsts/ *noun* an assessment of the costs of a legal action by the costs judge (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has replaced **taxation of costs**.)

assessor /ə'sesə/ *noun* an expert who helps the court when a case requires specialised technical knowledge

asset /'æset/ *noun* something which belongs to company or person and which has a specific value ○ *He has an excess of assets over liabilities.* ○ *Her assets are only £640 as against liabilities of £24,000.*

asset value /ˌæset 'vælju:/ *noun* the value of a company calculated by adding together all its assets

assign /ə'saɪn/ *verb* **1.** to give or transfer something ○ *to assign a right to someone* ○ *to assign shares to someone* ○ *to assign a debt to someone* **2.** to give someone a piece of work to do ○ *He was assigned the job of checking the numbers of stolen cars.* ○ *Three detectives have been assigned to the case.* ■ *noun* same as **assignee**

assignee /ˌæsaɪ'ni:/ *noun* somebody who receives something which has been assigned

assignment /ə'saɪnmənt/ *noun* **1.** the legal transfer of a property or of a right ○ *assignment of a patent* or *of a copyright* ○ *assignment of a lease* **2.** a document by which something is assigned **3.** a particular task to be completed ○ *We have put six constables on that particular assignment.*

assignor /ˌæsaɪ'nɔ:/ *noun* somebody who assigns something to someone

assigns /ə'saɪnz/ *plural noun* people to whom property has been assigned □ **his heirs and assigns** people who have inherited property and have had it transferred to them

assist /ə'sɪst/ *verb* to help ○ *The accused had to be assisted into the dock.* ○ *She has been assisting us with our inquiries.*

Assistant Chief Constable /əˌsɪst(ə)nt tʃi:f 'kʌnstəb(ə)l/ *noun* a rank in the police force below Chief Constable

assisted person /əˌsɪstɪd 'pɜ:s(ə)n/ *noun* somebody who is receiving Legal Aid

Assizes, Assize Courts *plural noun* formerly, the Crown Court

associate /ə'səʊsieɪt/ *adjective* joined together with something ■ *noun* somebody who works in the same business as someone ○ *In his testimony he named six associates.* ■ *verb* to mix with or to meet people □ **she associated with criminals** she was frequently in the company of criminals

associate company /əˌsəʊsiət 'kʌmp(ə)ni/ *noun* a company which is partly owned or controlled by another

associated /ə'səʊsieɪtɪd/ *adjective* joined to or controlled by ○ *Smith Ltd and its associated company, Jones Brothers.*

associate director /əˌsəʊsiət daɪ 'rektə/ *noun* a director who attends board meetings, but does not have the full powers of a director

associated person /əˌsəʊsieɪtɪd 'pɜ:s(ə)n/ *noun* a concept widened by the Family Law Act 1996, allowing any person who falls under this category the right to apply for a protection order. ◊ **non-molestation order, occupation order**

Associate Justice /əˌsəʊsiət 'dʒʌstɪs/ *noun US* a member of the Supreme Court who is not the Chief Justice

associate of the Crown Office /əˌsəʊsieɪt əv ðɪ kraʊn 'ɒfɪs/ *noun* an official who is responsible for the clerical and administrative work of a court

association /əˌsəʊsi'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a group of people or of companies with the same interest ○ *trade association* ○ *employers' association* **2.** (*in prison*) the time when prisoners can move about and meet other prisoners

assure /ə'ʃʊə/ *verb* to have an agreement with an insurance company that in return for regular payment, the company will pay compensation for injury or loss of life □ **the assured** the person whose interests are assured, who is entitled to the benefit in an insurance policy

assured shorthold tenancy /əˌʃʊəd ˌʃɔ:thəʊld 'tenənsi/ *noun* a ten-

ancy allowing a landlord to bypass the usual grounds for regaining possession of an assured tenancy. The Housing Act 1996 states that from the 28th February 1997, a landlord will no longer be required to give notice to the tenant and as of this date all new tenancies will automatically be classified as assured shorthold tenancies unless otherwise specified in the contract.

assured tenancy /əˌʃʊəd 'tenənsi/ *noun* in England and Wales, a lease under the Housing Act 1988 that gives a tenant limited security of tenure and allows a landlord a specific means of terminating a lease

assurer /ə'ʃʊərə/**, assuror** *noun* a company which provides insurance

COMMENT: **assure** and **assurance** are used in Britain for insurance policies relating to something which will certainly happen (such as death or the end of a given period of time); for other types of policy use **insure** and **insurance**.

asylum /ə'saɪləm/ *noun* refuge in a country granted to a person who is subject to extradition by a foreign government □ **to ask for political asylum** to ask to be allowed to remain in a foreign country because it would be dangerous to return to the home country for political reasons

at issue /ət 'ɪʃuː/ ◗ **issue**

at large /ət 'lɑːdʒ/ *adjective* not in prison ○ *Three prisoners escaped – two were recaptured, but one is still at large.*

attach /ə'tætʃ/ *verb* **1.** to fasten something to something else ○ *I am attaching a copy of my previous letter.* ○ *Attached is a copy of my letter of June 24th.* **2.** to arrest a person or take property

attaché /ə'tæʃeɪ/ *noun* a person who does specialised work in an embassy abroad ○ *a military attaché* ○ *The government ordered the commercial attaché to return home.*

attachment /ə'tætʃmənt/ *noun* a court order preventing a debtor's property from being sold until debts are paid

attachment of earnings /əˌtætʃmənt əv 'ɜːnɪŋz/ *noun* a legal power to take money from a person's salary to pay money which is owed to the courts

attachment of earnings order /əˌtætʃmənt əv 'ɜːnɪŋz ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a court order to make an employer pay part of an employee's salary to the court to pay off debts

attack /ə'tæk/ *verb* **1.** to try to hurt or harm someone ○ *The security guard was attacked by three men carrying guns.* **2.** to criticise ○ *The newspaper attacked the government for not spending enough money on the police.* ■ *noun* **1.** the act of trying to hurt or harm someone ○ *There has been an increase in attacks on police* or *in terrorist attacks on planes.* **2.** criticism ○ *The newspaper published an attack on the government.* (NOTE: You attack someone, but make an attack **on** someone.)

attacker /ə'tækə/ *noun* somebody who attacks ○ *She recognised her attacker and gave his description to the police.*

attempt /ə'tempt/ *noun* **1.** an act of trying to do something ○ *The company made an attempt to break into the American market.* ○ *The takeover attempt was turned down by the board.* ○ *All his attempts to get a job have failed.* **2.** an act of trying to do something illegal (NOTE: Attempt is a crime even if the attempted offence has not been committed.)

attempted murder /əˌtemptɪd 'mɜːdə/ *noun* the notifiable offence of trying to murder someone

attend /ə'tend/ *verb* to be present at ○ *The witnesses were summoned to attend the trial.*

attendance /ə'tendəns/ *noun* the fact of being present

attendance centre /əˌtendəns 'sentə/ *noun* a place where a young person may be sent by a court to take part in various activities or do hard work as a punishment. This applies to people between the ages of 17 and 21 and is on the condition that they have not had a custodial sentence before.

attest /ə'test/ *verb* to sign a document such as a will in the presence of a witness who also signs the document to confirm that the signature is genuine

attestation /ˌætɛˈsteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of signing a document such as a will in the presence of a witness to show that the signature is genuine

attestation clause /ˌætɛˈsteɪʃ(ə)n klɔːz/ *noun* a clause showing that the signature of the person signing a legal document has been witnessed (NOTE: The attestation clause is usually written: 'signed sealed and delivered by … in the presence of …'.)

attorn /əˈtɔːn/ *verb* to transfer

attorney /əˈtɜːni/ *noun* **1.** somebody who is legally allowed to act on behalf of someone else **2.** *US* a lawyer

attorney-at-law /əˌtɜːni ət ˈlɔː/ *noun* formerly, a barrister

Attorney-General /əˌtɜːni ˈdʒen(ə)rəl/ *noun* **1.** in the UK, one of the Law Officers, a Member of Parliament, who prosecutes for the Crown in some court cases, advises government departments on legal problems and decides if major criminal offences should be tried **2.** in a US state or in the federal government, the head of legal affairs (NOTE: In the US Federal Government, the Attorney-General is in charge of the Justice Department.)

attributable /əˈtrɪbjʊtəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being able to be attributed

attribute /əˈtrɪbjuːt/ *verb* to suggest that something came from a source ○ *remarks attributed to the Chief Constable*

audi alteram partem /ˌaʊdi ˌæltɛrəm ˈpɑːtəm/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'hear the other side': a rule in natural justice that everyone has the right to speak in his or her own defence and to have the case against them explained clearly

audit /ˈɔːdɪt/ *noun* **1.** an examination of the books and accounts of a company ○ *to carry out an annual audit* **2.** a careful review of the effectiveness of something ○ *an audit of safety procedures* ■ *verb* **1.** to examine the books and accounts of a company ○ *to audit the accounts* ○ *The books have not yet been audited.* **2.** to review something carefully

Audit Commission /ˌɔːdɪt kə ˈmɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an independent body which examines the accounts of local authorities, ensures that money is spent legally and wisely, and checks for possible fraud and corruption

auditor /ˈɔːdɪtə/ *noun* somebody who audits ○ *The AGM appoints the company's auditors.*

audit trail /ˈɔːdɪt treɪl/ *noun* a record in the form of computer or printed documents that shows how something happened

autarchy /ˈɔːtɑːki/ *noun* a situation where a state rules itself without outside interference and has full power over its own affairs

autarky /ˈɔːtɑːki/ *noun* a situation where a state is self-sufficient and can provide for all its needs without outside help

authenticate /ɔːˈθentɪˌkeɪt/ *verb* to show that something is true

authenticity /ˌɔːθenˈtɪsɪti/ *noun* the state of being genuine ○ *The police are checking the authenticity of the letter.* ○ *An electronic signature confirms the authenticity of the text.*

authorisation /ˌɔːθəraɪˈzeɪʃ(ə)n/, **authorization** *noun* **1.** official permission or power to do something ○ *Do you have authorisation for this expenditure?* ○ *He has no authorisation to act on our behalf.* **2.** a document showing that someone has official permission to do something ○ *He showed the bank his authorisation to inspect the contents of the safe.*

authorise /ˈɔːθəˌraɪz/, **authorize** /ˈɔːθəraɪz/ *verb* **1.** to give official permission for something to be done ○ *to authorise payment of £10,000* **2.** to give someone the authority to do something ○ *to authorise someone to act on your behalf*

authorised /ˈɔːθəraɪzd/, **authorized** *adjective* permitted

authorised capital /ˌɔːθəraɪzd ˈkæpɪt(ə)l/ *noun* the amount of capital which a company is allowed to have, according to its memorandum of association

authorised dealer /ˌɔːθəraɪzd ˈdiːlə/ *noun* a person or company such as a bank which is allowed to buy and sell foreign currency

authoritarian /ɔːˌθɒrɪ'teərɪən/ *adjective* acting because of having power

authoritarianism /ɔːˌθɒrɪ 'teərɪən[[ðɪʃç]]ˌɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a theory that a regime must rule its people strictly in order to be efficient

authoritarian regime /ɔː ˌθɒrɪteərɪən reɪ'ʒiːm/ *noun* a government which rules its people strictly and does not allow anyone to oppose its decisions

authoritative /ɔː'θɒrɪtətɪv/ *adjective* **1.** having the force of law ○ *Courts in Member States cannot give authoritative rulings on how Community law should be interpreted.* **2.** based on the best reliable information ○ *an authoritative opinion on likely trends*

authority /ɔː'θɒrətɪ/ *noun* **1.** official power given to someone to do something ○ *He has no authority to act on our behalf.* ○ *She was acting on the authority of the court.* ○ *On whose authority was the charge brought?* **2.** □ **the authorities** the government, police or official organisations with legal powers to control things

automatism /ɔː'tɒmətɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a defence to a criminal charge whereby the accused states he or she acted involuntarily

autonomous /ɔː'tɒnəməs/ *adjective* governing itself ○ *an autonomous regional government*

autonomy /ɔː'tɒnəmi/ *noun* self-government, or freedom from outside control ○ *The separatists are demanding full autonomy for their state.* ○ *The government has granted the region a limited autonomy.*

autopsy /'ɔːtɒpsi/ *noun* an examination of a dead person to see what was the cause of death

autrefois acquit /ˌəʊtrəfwæ ə'kiː/ *phrase* a French phrase meaning 'previously acquitted': a plea that an accused person has already been acquitted of the crime with which he or she is charged

COMMENT: There is no appeal against an acquittal, and a person who has been acquitted of a crime cannot be charged with the same crime again.

autrefois convict /ˌəʊtrəfwæ kɒn 'vɪkt/ *phrase* a French phrase meaning 'previously convicted': a plea that an accused person has already been convicted of the crime with which he or she is now charged

available /ə'veɪləb(ə)l/ *adjective* able to be used ○ *The right of self-defence is only available against unlawful attack.*

aver /ə'vɜː/ *verb* to make a statement or an allegation in pleadings (NOTE: **averring – averred**)

average /'æv(ə)rɪdʒ/ *noun* **1.** a number calculated by adding together several figures and dividing by the number of figures added ○ *sales average* or *average of sales* ○ *The average for the last three months* or *the last three months' average.* □ **on average** in general ○ *On average, £15 worth of goods are stolen every day.* **2.** the sharing of the cost of damage or loss of a ship between the insurers and the owners ■ *adjective* **1.** calculated by adding together several figures and dividing by the number of figures added ○ *the average cost of expenses per employee* ○ *the average figures for the last three months* ○ *the average increase in prices* **2.** ordinary or typical ○ *The company's performance has been only average.* ○ *He is an average worker.* □ **above *or* below average** more or less than is usual or typical ■ *verb* to produce as an average figure ○ *Price increases have averaged 10% per annum.* ○ *Days lost through sickness have averaged twenty-two over the last four years.*

average adjuster /ˌæv(ə)rɪdʒ ə 'dʒʌstə/ *noun* somebody who calculates how much is due to the insured when he or she makes a claim under his or her policy

average adjustment /ˌæv(ə)rɪdʒ ə 'dʒʌstmənt/ *noun* a calculation of the share of cost of damage or loss of a ship

average income per capita /ˌæv(ə)rɪdʒ ˌɪnkʌm pə 'kæpɪtə/ *noun* the average income of one person

averment /ə'vɜːmənt/ *noun* a statement or allegation made in pleadings

avoid /ə'vɔɪd/ *verb* **1.** to try not to do something ○ *The company is trying to avoid bankruptcy.* ○ *My aim is to avoid paying too much tax.* ○ *We want to avoid direct competition with Smith Ltd.* □ **to avoid creditors** to make sure that credi-

tors cannot find you so as not to pay them **2.** to make something void ○ *to avoid a contract* **3.** to quash a sentence

avoidance /əˈvɔɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* **1.** a plan or deliberate policy to avoid something or someone ○ *avoidance of an agreement* or *of a contract* **2.** a confession to a charge, but suggesting it should be cancelled

award /əˈwɔːd/ *noun* a decision which settles a dispute ○ *an award made by an industrial tribunal* ○ *The arbitrator's award was set aside on appeal.* ■ *verb* to decide the amount of money to be given to someone ○ *to award someone a salary increase* ○ *to award damages* ○ *The judge awarded costs to the defendant.* □ **to award a contract to a company** to decide that a company will have the contract to do work for you

AWOL /ˈeɪwɒl/ *abbreviation* absent without leave

B

backdate /bæk'deɪt/ *verb* to put an earlier date on a cheque or an invoice ○ *Backdate your invoice to April 1st.* ○ *The pay increase is backdated to January 1st.*

background /'bækgraʊnd/ *noun* **1.** the previous experience, cultural background or family connections that someone has ○ *The accused is from a good background.* ○ *Can you tell us something of the girl's family background?* **2.** general facts about a situation including relevant information about what happened in the past ○ *He explained the background to the claim.* ○ *The court asked for details of the background to the case.* ○ *I know the contractual situation as it stands now, but can you fill in the background details?*

back interest /ˌbæk 'ɪntrəst/ *noun* interest which has not yet been paid

back orders /'bæk ˌɔːdəz/ *noun* orders received in the past and not yet supplied

back pay /'bæk peɪ/ *noun* salary which has not been paid

back payment /'bæk ˌpeɪmənt/ *noun* the payment of money which is owed

back rent /'bæk rent/ *noun* rent which has not been paid

backsheet /'bækʃiːt/ *noun* the last sheet of paper in a legal document which, when folded, becomes the outside sheet and carries the endorsement

back taxes /'bæk ˌtæksɪz/ *plural noun* taxes which have not been paid

back wages /ˌbæk 'weɪdʒɪz/ *plural noun* wages which have not been paid to a worker

bad debt /ˌbæd 'det/ *noun* money owed which will never be paid back

baggage check /'bægɪdʒ tʃek/ *noun* an examination of passengers' baggage to see if it contains bombs

bail /beɪl/ *noun* **1.** the release of an arrested person from custody after payment has been made to a court on condition that the person will return to face trial ○ *to stand bail of £3,000 for someone* (NOTE: The US term is **pretrial release**.) **2.** payment made to a court to release an arrested person ○ *He was granted bail on his own recognizance of £1,000.* ○ *The police opposed bail on the grounds that the accused might try to leave the country.* (NOTE: The US term is **pretrial release**.) □ **he was remanded on bail of £3,000** he was released on payment of £3,000 as a guarantee that he would return to the court to face trial □ **to jump bail** not to appear in court after having been released on bail ■ *verb* □ **to bail someone out** to pay a debt on behalf of someone ○ *She paid £3,000 to bail him out.*

bail bandit /'beɪl ˌbændɪt/ *noun* an accused person who commits a crime while on bail awaiting trial for another offence, or who fails to appear in court on the date agreed

bail bond /'beɪl bɒnd/ *noun* a signed document which is given to the court as security for payment of a judgment

bail bondsperson /ˌbeɪl 'bɒndzpɜːs(ə)n/ *noun* someone who provides bail money or acts as surety for an accused person

bailee /ˌbeɪ'liː/ *noun* somebody who receives property by way of bailment

Bailey ➧ **Old Bailey**

bailiff /'beɪlɪf/ *noun* **1.** a person employed by the court whose responsibility is to see that documents such as sum-

monses are served and that court orders are obeyed ○ *The court ordered the bailiffs to seize his property because he had not paid his fine.* (NOTE: The US equivalent is a **marshal**.) **2.** *US* the deputy to a sheriff

bailment /'beɪlmənt/ *noun* a transfer of goods by one person (the bailor) to another (the bailee) who then holds them until they have to be returned to the bailor. The process is that of leaving a coat in a cloakroom or at the cleaner's.

bailor /ˌbeɪ'lɔː/ *noun* somebody who transfers property by way of bailment

Bakke decision /'bæki: dɪˌsɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* a US Supreme Court ruling that made the reservation of a specific number of places for students from minority groups unlawful because it prevented applicants not from those groups from competing for the reserved places

balance /'bæləns/ *noun* □ **balance of mind** mental state

ballot-rigging /'bælət ˌrɪgɪŋ/ *noun* an illegal attempt to manipulate the votes in an election so that a specific candidate or party wins

ban /bæn/ *noun* an order which forbids someone from doing something or which makes an activity illegal ○ *a government ban on the sale of weapons* ○ *a ban on the copying of computer software* □ **to impose a ban on smoking** to make an order which forbids smoking □ **to lift the ban on smoking** to allow people to smoke ■ *verb* to forbid something or make it illegal ○ *The government has banned the sale of alcohol.* ○ *The sale of pirated records has been banned.*

bank /bæŋk/ *noun* a business which holds money for its clients, lends money at interest, and trades generally in money ■ *verb* to deposit money into a bank or to have an account with a bank

bankable paper /ˌbæŋkəb(ə)l 'peɪpə/ *noun* a document which a bank will accept as security for a loan

bank account /'bæŋk əˌkaʊnt/ *noun* an arrangement which you make with a bank to keep your money safely until you want it

bank borrowings /'bæŋk ˌbɒrəʊɪŋz/ *plural noun* loans made by banks

bank charter /ˌbæŋk 'tʃɑːtə/ *noun* an official government document allowing the establishment of a bank

bank draft /'bæŋk drɑːft/ *noun* a cheque payable by a bank

banker's order /'bæŋkəz ˌɔːdə/ *noun* an order written by a customer asking a bank to make a regular payment to someone else

bank loan /'bæŋk ləʊn/ *noun* money lent by a bank

bank mandate /'bæŋk ˌmændeɪt/ *noun* a written order allowing someone to sign cheques on behalf of a company

bank note /'bæŋk nəʊt/**, banknote** *noun* a piece of printed paper money (NOTE: The US term is **bill**.)

bank reserves /ˌbæŋk rɪ'zɜːvz/ *plural noun* cash and securities held by a bank to cover deposits

bankrupt /'bæŋkrʌpt/ *adjective* declared by a court not capable of paying debts ○ *a bankrupt property developer* ○ *He was adjudicated* or *declared bankrupt.* ○ *He went bankrupt after two years in business.* ■ *noun* someone who has been declared by a court to be not capable of paying debts and whose affairs have been put into the hands of a trustee ■ *verb* to make someone become bankrupt ○ *The recession bankrupted my father.*

COMMENT: A bankrupt cannot serve as a Member of Parliament, a Justice of the Peace, a director of a limited company, and cannot sign a contract or borrow money.

bankruptcy /'bæŋkrʌptsi/ *noun* the state of being bankrupt ○ *The recession has caused thousands of bankruptcies.* (NOTE: The term bankruptcy is applied to individuals or partners, but not to companies. For companies, the term to use is 'insolvency'.) □ **adjudication of bankruptcy**, **declaration of bankruptcy** legal order making someone bankrupt ◇ **to file a petition in bankruptcy 1.** to apply to the Court to be made bankrupt **2.** to ask for someone else to be made bankrupt

Bankruptcy Court /'bæŋkrʌptsi kɔ:t/ *noun* a court which deals with bankruptcies

bankruptcy notice /ˌbæŋkrʌptsi 'nəʊtɪs/ *noun* a notice warning someone that they face bankruptcy if they fail to pay money which they owe

bankruptcy petition /ˌbæŋkrʌptsi pə'tɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an application to a court asking for an order making someone bankrupt

bankruptcy proceedings /ˌbæŋkrʌptsi prə'si:dɪŋz/ *plural noun* a court case to make someone bankrupt

bank transfer /'bæŋk ˌtrænsfɜ:/ *noun* the movement of money from a bank account to an account in another country

banning order /'bænɪŋ ˌɔ:də/ *noun* a court order to stop someone from going to a specific place (NOTE: **banning – banned**)

banns /bænz/ *plural noun* a declaration in church that a couple intend to get married ○ *to publish the banns of marriage between Anne Smith and John Jones*

bar /bɑ:/ *noun* the set of rails in a court behind which the lawyers and public stand or sit □ **to be called to the bar** to pass examinations and fulfil specific requirements to become a barrister □ **prisoner at the bar** a prisoner being tried in court ■ *verb* to forbid something, or make something illegal ○ *He was barred from attending the meeting.* ○ *The police commissioner barred the use of firearms.* ◇ **the Bar 1.** the profession of barrister **2.** all barristers or lawyers

Bar Council /'bɑ: ˌkaʊns(ə)l/ *noun* the ruling body of English and Welsh barristers

bareboat charter /'beəbəʊt ˌtʃɑ:tə/ *noun* a charter of a ship where the owner provides only the ship and not the crew, fuel or insurance

bargain /'bɑ:gɪn/ *noun* an agreement between two people or groups to do something ■ *verb* to discuss something with someone in order to make an improvement for yourself

bargaining /'bɑ:gɪnɪŋ/ *noun* the act of discussing something in order too reach an agreement that everyone is happy with. ◇ **plea bargaining**

bargaining position /'bɑ:gɪnɪŋ pə ˌzɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a statement of position by one group during negotiations

bargaining power /'bɑ:gɪnɪŋ ˌpaʊə/ *noun* the relative strength of one person or group when several people or groups are discussing prices, wages or contracts

baron /'bærən/ *noun* a prisoner who has power over other prisoners because he or she runs various rackets in a prison (*slang*)

barratry /'bærətri/ *noun* **1.** a criminal offence by which the master or crew of a ship damage the ship **2.** *US* an offence of starting a lawsuit with no grounds for doing so

barrister /'bærɪstə/ *noun* especially in England and Wales, a lawyer who can plead or argue a case in one of the higher courts

COMMENT: In England and Wales, a barrister is a member of one of the Inns of Court; he or she has passed examinations and spent one year in pupillage before being called to the bar. Barristers have right of audience in all courts in England and Wales, that is to say they have the right to speak in court, but they do not have that right exclusively. Note also that barristers were formerly instructed only by solicitors and never by members of the public.; now they can take instruction from professional people such as accountants. Barristers are now allowed to advertise their services. A barrister or a group of barristers is referred to as 'counsel'.

base /beɪs/ *noun* **1.** the lowest or first position **2.** the place where a company has its main office or factory, or the place where a businessperson has their office ○ *The company has its base in London and branches in all European countries.* ○ *He has an office in Madrid which he uses as a base while he is travelling in Southern Europe.* ■ *verb* **1.** to start to calculate or to negotiate from a position ○ *We based our calculations on last year's turnover.* **2.** to set up a company or a person in a place ○ *a London-based sales executive* ○ *The European manager is based in our London office.* ○ *Our foreign branch is based in the Bahamas.*

base costs /'beɪs kɒsts/ *noun* the general costs of a case which apply before any percentage increase is assessed

based on /'beɪst ɒn/ *noun* calculating from

base year /'beɪs jɪə/ *noun* the first year of an index, against which later years' changes are measured

basic award /'beɪsɪk ə,wɔːd/ *noun* a minimum award, which is the first stage of assessing compensation

basic rate tax /'beɪsɪk reɪt ,tæks/ *noun* the lowest rate of income tax

basics /'beɪsɪks/ *plural noun* simple and important facts □ **to get back to basics** to start discussing the basic facts again

basis /'beɪsɪs/ *noun* **1.** a point or number from which calculations are made ○ *We have calculated the turnover on the basis of a 6% price increase.* **2.** the general facts on which something is based ○ *We have three people working on a freelance basis.* □ **on a short-term, long-term basis** for a short or long period ○ *He has been appointed on a short-term basis.*

bastard /'bɑːstəd/ *noun* an illegitimate child, born to an unmarried mother (NOTE: The child now has some rights to the property of its parents.)

baton /'bætɒn/ *noun* a large stick used by the police for defence and to hit people with ○ *The crowd was stopped by a row of policemen carrying batons.*

baton charge /'bætɒn tʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* a charge by police using batons against a mob

baton round /'bætɒn raʊnd/ *noun* a thick bullet made of plastic fired from a special gun, used by the police only in self-defence. Also called **plastic bullet**

batter /'bætə/ *verb* to hit someone or something hard ○ *The dead man had been battered to death with a hammer.* ○ *Police were battering on the door of the flat.*

battered /'bætəd/ *adjective* frequently beaten as a punishment or act of cruelty □ **battered child, battered wife** a child who is frequently beaten by one of its parents, or a wife who is frequently beaten by her husband

battery /'bæt(ə)ri/ *noun* the crime or tort of using force against another person. Compare **assault**

beak /biːk/ *noun* a magistrate (*slang*)

bear /beə/ *verb* **1.** (*of costs*) to pay ○ *The company bore the legal costs of both parties.* **2.** □ **to bear on** to refer to or have an effect on ○ *The decision of the court bears on future cases where immigration procedures are disputed.*

bearing /'beərɪŋ/ *noun* an influence or effect □ **to have a bearing on** to refer to or have an effect on ○ *The decision of the court has a bearing on future cases where immigration procedures are disputed.*

beat /biːt/ *noun* an area which a policeman patrols regularly □ **the constable on the beat** the ordinary policeman on foot patrol ■ *verb* □ **to beat a ban** to do something which is going to be forbidden by doing it rapidly before the ban is enforced

Beddoe order /'bedəʊ ,ɔːdə/ *noun* a court order allowing a trustee to bring or defend an action and to recover any resulting costs from the trust property

behalf /bɪ'hɑːf/ *noun* □ **on behalf of** acting for someone or a company ○ *solicitors acting on behalf of the American company* ○ *I am writing on behalf of the minority shareholders.* ○ *She is acting on my behalf.*

belli ◗ **casus belli**

bellman /'belmən/ *noun* a criminal who specialises in stopping burglar alarms and other security devices (*slang*)

bench /bentʃ/ *noun* a place where judges or magistrates sit in court □ **to be up before the bench** to be in a magistrates' court, accused of a crime □ **he is on the bench** he is a magistrate

Bencher /'bentʃə/ *noun* one of the senior members of an Inn of Court

bench of magistrates /bentʃ əv 'mædʒɪ,streɪts/ *noun* a group of magistrates in an area

bench warrant /'bentʃ ,wɒrənt/ *noun* a warrant issued by a court for the arrest of an accused person who has not appeared to answer charges

benefactor /'benɪfæktə/ *noun* somebody who gives property or money to others, especially in a will

beneficial interest /ˌbenɪfɪʃ(ə)l 'ɪntrəst/ *noun* the interest of the beneficiary of a property, shares or trust, which allows someone to occupy or receive rent from a property, while the property is owned by a trustee

beneficial occupier /ˌbenɪfɪʃ(ə)l 'ɒkjʊpaɪə/ *noun* somebody who occupies a property but does not own it

beneficial owner /ˌbenɪfɪʃ(ə)l 'əʊnə/ *noun* the true or ultimate owner whose interest may be concealed by a nominee

beneficial use /ˌbenɪ'fɪʃ(ə)l juːs/ *noun* the right to use, occupy or receive rent from a property which is owned by a trustee

beneficiary /ˌbenɪ'fɪʃəri/ *noun* **1.** somebody who is left property in a will ○ *The main beneficiaries of the will are the deceased's family.* **2.** somebody whose property is administered by a trustee

COMMENT: In a trust, the trustee is the legal owner of the property, while the beneficiary is the equitable owner who receives the real benefit of the trust.

benefit /'benɪfɪt/ *noun* **1.** money or advantage gained from something ○ *The estate was left to the benefit of the owner's grandsons.* **2.** payment which is made to someone under a national or private insurance scheme ○ *She receives £52 a week as unemployment benefit.* ○ *The sickness benefit is paid monthly.* ○ *The insurance office sends out benefit cheques each week.* ■ *verb* □ **to benefit from, by something** to be improved by something, to gain more money because of something

Benjamin order /'bendʒəmɪn ˌɔːdə/ *noun* an order from a court to a personal representative, which directs how someone's estate should be distributed

bent /bent/ *adjective* corrupt, stolen or illegal (*slang*) □ **bent copper** a corrupt policeman □ **bent job** an illegal deal

bequeath /bɪ'kwiːð/ *verb* to leave property, but not freehold land, to someone in a will ○ *He bequeathed his shares to his daughter.*

bequest /bɪ'kwest/ *noun* money or property, but not freehold land, given to someone in a will ○ *He made several bequests to his staff.*

COMMENT: Freehold land given in a will is a **devise**.

Berne Convention /'bɜːn kən ˌvenʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an international agreement on the regulations governing copyright, signed in Berne in 1886. ◊ **copyright**

COMMENT: Under the Berne Convention, any book which is copyrighted in a country which has signed the convention is automatically copyrighted in the other countries. Some countries (notably the USA) did not sign the Convention, and the UCC (Universal Copyright Convention) was signed in Geneva in 1952, under the auspices of the United Nations, to try to bring together all countries under a uniform copyright agreement.

best evidence rule /ˌbest 'evɪd(ə)ns ˌruːl/ *noun* the rule that the best evidence possible should be produced, so an original document is preferred to a copy

bestiality /ˌbesti'ælɪti/ *noun* buggery with an animal

betray /bɪ'treɪ/ *verb* to give away a secret ○ *He betrayed the secret to the enemy.* □ **to betray your country, a friend** to give away your country's or your friend's secrets to an enemy

betrayal /bɪ'treɪəl/ *noun* an act of betraying someone or something

betrayal of trust /bɪˌtreɪəl əv 'trʌst/ *noun* an act against someone who trusts you

betting duty /ˌbetɪŋ 'djuːti/ *noun* a tax levied on the activity of placing bets on horse and dog races, etc.

BFP *abbreviation US* bona fide purchaser

bi- /baɪ/ *prefix* twice

bias /'baɪəs/ *noun* unfairly different treatment of a person or group as compared with others □ **likelihood of bias** a possibility that bias will occur because of a connection between a member of the court and a party in the case

biased /'baɪəst/ *adjective* unfairly favouring a person or group as compared with others

bigamist /'bɪgəmɪst/ *noun* somebody who is married to two people at the same time

bigamous /'bɪgəməs/ *adjective* referring to bigamy ○ *They went through a bigamous marriage ceremony.*

bigamy /'bɪgəmi/ *noun* the notifiable offence of going through a ceremony of marriage to someone when you are still married to someone else. Compare **monogamy, polygamy**

bilateral /baɪ'læt(ə)rəl/ *adjective* (*of an agreement*) between two parties or countries ○ *The minister signed a bilateral trade agreement.*

bilateral contract /baɪˌlæt(ə)rəl kən 'trækt/ *noun* a contract where the two parties each have duties to the other

bilateral discharge /ˌbaɪlætər(ə)l 'dɪstʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* an agreement by two parties to bring a contract to an end by releasing each other from their existing obligations

bilaterally /ˌbaɪ'lætər(ə)li/ *adverb* between two parties or countries ○ *The agreement was reached bilaterally.*

bilking /'baɪkɪŋ/ *noun* the offence of removing goods without paying for them, or of refusing to pay a bill

bill /bɪl/ *noun* **1.** a written list of charges to be paid ○ *The salesman wrote out the bill.* ○ *Does the bill include VAT?* ○ *The bill is made out to Smith Ltd.* ○ *The builder sent in his bill.* ○ *He left the country without paying his bills.* □ **to foot the bill** to pay the costs **2.** a list of charges in a restaurant ○ *Can I have the bill please?* ○ *The bill comes to £20 including service.* ○ *Does the bill include service?* ○ *The waiter has added 10% to the bill for service.* **3.** a written paper promising to pay money **4.** *US* a piece of paper money **5.** a draft of a new law to be discussed by a legislature ○ *The house is discussing the Noise Prevention Bill.* ○ *The Finance Bill had its second reading yesterday.* ■ *verb* to present a bill to someone so that it can be paid ○ *The builders billed him for the repairs to his neighbour's house.*

COMMENT: In the UK, a Bill passes through the following stages in Parliament: **First Reading, Second Reading, Committee Stage, Report Stage** and **Third Reading.** The Bill goes through these stages first in the House of Commons and then in the House of Lords. When all the stages have been passed the Bill is given the Royal Assent and becomes law as an Act of Parliament. In the USA, a Bill is introduced either in the House or in the Senate, is referred to an appropriate committee with public hearings, then to general debate in the full House. The Bill is debated section by section and after being passed by both House and Senate is engrossed and sent to the President as a **joint resolution** for signature or veto.

bill of attainder /ˌbɪl əv ə'teɪndə/ *noun* formerly, a way of punishing a person legally without holding a trial, by passing a law to convict and sentence him

bill of exchange /ˌbɪl əv ɪks 'tʃeɪndʒ/ *noun* a document ordering the person to whom it is directed to pay a person money on demand or at a specified date

bill of health /ˌbɪl əv 'helθ/ *noun* a document given to the master of a ship showing that the ship is free of disease

bill of indictment /ˌbɪl əv ɪn 'daɪtmənt/ *noun US* **1.** a draft of an indictment which is examined by the court, and when signed becomes an indictment **2.** a list of charges given to a grand jury, asking them to indict the accused

bill of lading /ˌbɪl əv 'leɪdɪŋ/ *noun* a list of goods being shipped, which the shipper gives to the person sending the goods to show that they have been loaded

Bill of Rights /ˌbɪl əv 'raɪts/ *noun US* those sections (i.e. the first ten amendments) of the constitution of the United States which refer to the rights and privileges of an individual

bill of sale /ˌbɪl əv 'seɪl/ *noun* **1.** a document which the seller gives to the buyer to show that the sale has taken place **2.** a document given to a lender by a borrower to show that the lender owns the property as security for the loan

bills for collection /ˌbɪlz fə kə 'lekʃən/ *noun* bills where payment is due

bills payable /ˌbɪlz 'peɪəb(ə)l/ *noun* bills which a debtor will have to pay

bind /baɪnd/ *verb* to make someone obey a rule or keep a promise ○ *The company is bound by its articles of association.* ○ *He does not consider himself bound by the agreement which was signed by his predecessor.* ○ *High Court judges are bound by the decisions of the House of Lords.*

binder /'baɪndə/ *noun US* a temporary acknowledgement of a contract of insurance sent before the insurance policy is issued (NOTE: The British English term is **cover note**.)

binding /'baɪndɪŋ/ *adjective* having the ability to force someone to do something ○ *This document is legally binding* or *it is a legally binding document.* □ **the agreement is binding on all parties** all parties signing it must do what is agreed

binding precedent /ˌbaɪndɪŋ 'presɪd(ə)nt/ *noun* a decision of a higher court which has to be followed by a judge in a lower court

bind over /ˌbaɪnd 'əʊvə/ *verb* **1.** to make someone promise to behave well and not commit another offence, or to return to court at a later date to face charges ○ *He was bound over (to keep the peace* or *to be of good behaviour) for six months.* **2.** *US* to order a defendant to be kept in custody while a criminal case is being prepared

bind-over order /ˌbaɪnd 'əʊvə ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a court order which binds someone over ○ *The applicant sought judicial review to quash the bind-over order.*

biological parent /ˌbaɪəˌlɒdʒɪk(ə)l 'peərəmt/ *noun* the mother or father to whom a child is born. Compare **adoptive parent, stepparent, foster parent**

birth /bɜːθ/ *noun* the occasion of being born, or the social position relating to the circumstances of it. ◊ **concealment of birth** □ **by birth** according to where or to what family someone was born ○ *He's English by birth.* □ **date and place of birth** the day of the year when someone was born and the town where he or she was born

birth certificate /'bɜːθ səˌtɪfɪkət/ *noun* a document giving details of a person's date and place of birth

black /blæk/ *adjective* □ **to pay black market prices** to pay high prices to get items which are not easily available

black economy /ˌblæk ɪ'kɒnəmi/ *noun* the system by which work is paid for in cash or goods and not declared to the tax authorities

black letter law /ˌblæk 'letə ˌlɔː/ *noun* emphasis on the fundamental principles of law, as opposed to discussion of possible changes to the legal system to make it more perfect (*informal*)

black list /'blæk lɪst/ *noun* a list of goods, people or companies which have been blacked

blacklist /'blæklɪst/ *verb* to put goods, people or a company on a black list ○ *His firm was blacklisted by the government.*

blackmail /'blækmeɪl/ *noun* the notifiable offence of getting money from someone by threatening to make public information which he or she does not want revealed or by threatening violence ○ *He was charged with blackmail.* ○ *They got £25,000 from the managing director by blackmail.* ○ *She was sent to prison for blackmail.* ■ *verb* to threaten someone that you will make public information which he or she does not want revealed or to threaten an act of violence unless he or she pays you money ○ *He was blackmailed by his former secretary.*

blackmailer /'blækmeɪlə/ *noun* somebody who blackmails someone

black market /ˌblæk 'mɑːkɪt/ *noun* the illegal buying and selling goods that are not easily available or in order to avoid taxes ○ *There is a lucrative black market in spare parts for cars.* ○ *You can buy gold coins on the black market.* ○ *They lived well on black-market goods.*

black marketeer /ˌblæk ˌmɑːkə'tɪə/ *noun* somebody who sells goods on the black market

blag /blæg/ *noun* a robbery by an armed gang (*slang*)

blanche ◗ **carte blanche**

blank /blæŋk/ *adjective* with nothing written ■ *noun* a space on a form which has to be completed ○ *Fill in the blanks in block capitals.*

blank cheque /ˌblæŋk 'tʃek/ *noun* a cheque with the amount of money and

the payee left blank, but signed by the drawer

blanket agreement /ˌblæŋkɪt ə ˈgriːmənt/ *noun* an agreement which covers many different items

blanket insurance policy /ˌblæŋkɪt ɪnˈʃʊərəns ˌpɒlɪsi/ *noun* a policy covering several items

blaspheme /blæsˈfiːm/ *verb* to ridicule or deny God or the Christian religion

blasphemy /ˈblæsfəmi/ *noun* formerly, the crime of ridiculing or denying God or the Christian religion in a scandalous way

block /blɒk/ *noun* **1.** a series of items grouped together ○ *He bought a block of 6,000 shares.* **2.** a series of buildings forming a square with streets on all sides **3.** a building in a prison ○ *a cell block* ○ *a hospital block* ■ *verb* to stop something taking place ○ *He used his casting vote to block the motion.* ○ *The planning committee blocked the plan to build a motorway through the middle of the town.*

blocked currency /ˌblɒkt ˈkʌrənsi/ *noun* a currency which cannot be taken out of a country because of exchange controls

block exemption /ˌblɒk ɪgˈzempʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an exemption granted to a large business or group of businesses exempting them from some obligations under competition law

blood relationship /ˌblʌd rɪˈleɪʃ(ə)nʃɪp/ *noun* a relationship between people who have a common ancestor

blood sample /ˈblʌd ˌsɑːmpəl/ *noun* a small amount of blood taken from someone for a blood test in order to establish something such as the alcohol content of the blood

blood test /ˈblʌd test/ *noun* a test to establish the paternity of a child

blotter /ˈblɒtə/ *noun US* a book in which arrests are recorded at a police station

blue bag /ˈbluː bæg/ *noun* the blue bag in which a junior barrister carries his or her gown. ◊ **red bag**

Blue Book /ˌbluː ˈbʊk/ *noun* an official report of a Royal Commission, bound in blue covers

blue laws /ˈbluː lɔːz/ *plural noun US* laws relating to what can or cannot be done on a Sunday

blue sky laws /ˌbluː ˈskaɪ ˌlɔːz/ *plural noun US* state laws to protect investors against fraudulent traders in securities

board meeting /ˈbɔːd ˌmiːtɪŋ/ *noun* a meeting of the directors of a company

board of directors /ˌbɔːd əv daɪˈrektəz/ *noun* a group of directors elected by the shareholders to run a company ○ *The bank has two representatives on the board.* ○ *He sits on the board as a representative of the bank.* ○ *Two directors were removed from the board at the AGM.*

board of visitors /ˌbɔːd əv ˈvɪzɪtəs/ *noun* in the UK, a group of people appointed by the Home Secretary to visit and inspect the conditions in prisons

bobby /ˈbɒbi/ *noun* a policeman (*informal*)

bodily /ˈbɒdɪli/ *adjective* affecting someone's body ○ *Fortunately no bodily harm had been caused.* ■ *adverb* **1.** in a way that has an effect on the body ○ *The police lifted the protester bodily and removed him from the street.* **2.** in person ○ *She had not been bodily present when the fight had started.*

body /ˈbɒdi/ *noun* **1.** the whole of a person or animal **2.** an organisation or group of people who work together ○ *Parliament is an elected body.* ○ *The governing body of the university has to approve the plan to give the President a honorary degree.* **3.** a large group or amount ○ *a body of evidence* □ **body of opinion** a group of people who have the same view about something ○ *there is a considerable body of opinion which believes that capital punishment should be reintroduced*

bodyguard /ˈbɒdigɑːd/ *noun* somebody who protects someone ○ *The minister was followed by his three bodyguards.*

bogus caller /ˌbəʊgəs ˈkɔːlə/ *noun* someone who claims to be an official in

order to be allowed to enter a home in order to steal from it

boilerplate /'bɔɪləpleɪt/ *noun US* a standard form of agreement or contract with blank spaces to be filled in

bomb hoax /'bɒm həʊks/ *noun* the act of placing an imitation bomb in a public place or making a phone call to report a bomb which does not exist

bona fide purchaser /ˌbəʊnə ˌfaɪdi 'pɜːtʃəsə/ *noun* a purchaser who buys something in good faith

bona fides /ˌbəʊnə 'faɪdiːz/**, bona fide** /ˌbəʊnə 'faɪdi/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'good faith' or 'in good faith' ○ *He acted bona fide.* ○ *The respondent was not acting bona fides.* □ **a bona fide offer** an offer which is made honestly, which can be trusted

bona vacantia /ˌbəʊnə və'kænʃiə/ *noun* property with no owner, or which does not have an obvious owner, and which usually passes to the Crown, as in the case of the estate of a person without living relatives dying without having made a will

bond /bɒnd/ *noun* **1.** a contract document promising to repay money borrowed by a company or by the government ○ *government bonds* or *treasury bonds* **2.** a contract document promising to repay money borrowed by a person **3.** a signed legal document which binds one or more parties to do or not to do something □ **goods (held) in bond** goods held by the customs until duty has been paid □ **entry of goods under bond** bringing goods into a country in bond □ **to take goods out of bond** to pay duty on goods so that they can be released by the customs

bonded /'bɒndɪd/ *adjective* held in bond

bonded goods /'bɒndɪd gʊdz/ *plural noun* goods which are held by the customs under a bond until duty has been paid

bondholder /'bɒndhəʊldə/ *noun* somebody who holds government bonds

bondsman /'bɒndzmən/**, bondsperson** *noun* somebody who has stood surety for another person

book /bʊk/ *noun* □ **to bring someone to book** to find a suspect and charge him with a crime □ **to throw the book at someone** to charge someone with every possible crime (*informal*) ○ *If ever we get the gang in the police station, we'll throw the book at them.* ■ *verb* **1.** to order or to reserve something ○ *to book a room in a hotel* or *a table at a restaurant* or *a ticket on a plane* ○ *I booked a table for 7.45.* ○ *He booked a ticket through to Cairo.* □ **to book someone into a hotel**, **onto a flight** to order a room or a plane ticket for someone **2.** to charge someone with a crime (*informal*) ○ *He was booked for driving on the wrong side of the road.*

book value /'bʊk vælju:/ *noun* the value of a company's assets as shown in the company accounts

boot camp /'bu:t kæmp/ *noun US* a camp providing a form of treatment for young offenders where they are subjected to harsh discipline for a short period

bootleg /'bu:tleg/ *adjective* (*of alcohol*) illegally produced and sold

bootlegger /'bu:tlegə/ *noun* somebody who makes or supplies illicit alcohol

bootlegging /'bu:tlegɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the production of illicit alcohol **2.** the production of illegal records or tapes from live concerts

borrow /'bɒrəʊ/ *verb* **1.** to take money from someone for a time, possibly paying interest for it, and repaying it at the end of the period ○ *He borrowed £1,000 from the bank.* ○ *The company had to borrow heavily to repay its debts.* ○ *They borrowed £25,000 against the security of the factory.* **2.** to steal (*slang*)

borrower /'bɒrəʊə/ *noun* somebody who borrows ○ *Borrowers from the bank pay 12% interest.*

borrowing /'bɒrəʊɪŋ/ *noun* the action of borrowing money ○ *The new factory was financed by bank borrowing.*

borrowing power /'bɒrəʊɪŋ ˌpaʊə/ *noun* the amount of money which a company can borrow

borrowings /'bɒrəʊɪŋz/ *plural noun* money borrowed ○ *The company's borrowings have doubled.*

borstal /'bɔːst(ə)l/ *noun* formerly, a centre where a young offender was sent for training after committing a crime which would normally be punishable by a prison sentence (NOTE: Now replaced by **Young Offender Institutions**.)

boss /bɒs/ *noun* the head of a Mafia family or other criminal gang

bottomry /'bɒtəmri/ *noun* the mortgage of a ship or cargo

bottomry bond /'bɒtəmri bɒnd/ *noun* a bond which secures a ship or cargo against a loan

bounce /baʊns/ *verb* to be returned to the person who has tried to cash it, because there is not enough money in the payer's account to pay it (*informal*) ○ *He paid for the car with a cheque that bounced.*

bound /baʊnd/ ➧ **duty bound**

boundary /'baʊnd(ə)ri/**, boundary line** /'baʊnd(ə)ri laɪn/ *noun* a line marking the edge of a piece of land owned by someone ○ *The boundary dispute dragged through the courts for years.*

Boundary Commission /ˌbaʊnd(ə)ri kə'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a committee which examines the area and population of constituencies for the House of Commons and recommends changes to ensure that each Member of Parliament represents approximately the same number of people

bounty /'baʊnti/ *noun* a payment made by government to someone who has saved lives or found treasure

box /bɒks/ *noun* ➧ **witness box**

box file /'bɒks faɪl/ *noun* a cardboard box for holding documents

bracelets /'breɪsləts/ *plural noun* handcuffs (*slang*)

branch /brɑːntʃ/ *noun* **1.** a local office of a bank or large business ○ *The bank* or *the store has branches in most towns in the south of the country.* ○ *The insurance company has closed its branches in South America.* ○ *He is the manager of our local branch of Lloyds bank.* ○ *We have decided to open a branch office in Chicago.* ○ *The manager of our branch in Lagos* or *of our Lagos branch.* **2.** a local shop of a large chain of shops **3.** a part or separate section of a area of knowledge or study such as the law ○ *The Law of Contract and the Law of Tort are branches of civil law.* **4.** ➧ **Special Branch**

branded goods /ˌbrændɪd 'gʊdz/ *plural noun* goods sold under brand names

brand name /'brænd neɪm/ *noun* the name of a particular make of product

breach /briːtʃ/ *noun* **1.** failure to carry out the terms of an agreement ○ *They alleged that a breach of international obligations had been committed.* □ **in breach of** failing to do something which was agreed, not acting according to ○ *We are in breach of Community law.* ○ *The defendant is in breach of his statutory duty.* **2.** failure to obey the law ○ *The soldier was charged with a serious breach of discipline.*

COMMENT: Anyone can arrest a person who is committing a breach of peace; a policeman can arrest someone who is committing a breach of the peace without charging him.

breach of confidence /ˌbriːtʃ əv 'kɒnfɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* the release of confidential information without permission

breach of contract /ˌbriːtʃ əv 'kɒntrækt/ *noun* an act of breaking the terms of a contract □ **the company is in breach of contract** the company has failed to carry out what was agreed in the contract

breach of promise /ˌbriːtʃ əv 'prɒmɪs/ *noun* formerly, a complaint in court that someone had promised to marry the claimant and then had not done so

breach of the peace /ˌbriːtʃ əv ðə 'piːs/ *noun* the act of creating a disturbance which is likely to annoy or frighten people

breach of trust /ˌbriːtʃ əv 'trʌst/ *noun* a failure on the part of a trustee to act properly in regard to a trust

breach of warranty /ˌbriːtʃ əv 'wɒrənti/ *noun* a failure to supply goods which not meet the standards of the warranty applied to them

break /breɪk/ *noun* a short space of time when you can rest ○ *The court adjourned for a ten-minute break.* ■ *verb* **1.** □ **to break the law** to do something

which is against the law ○ *If you hit a policeman you will be breaking the law.* ○ *He is breaking the law by parking on the pavement.* ○ *The company broke section 26 of the Companies Act.* **2.** ○ *The company has broken the contract* or *the agreement.* □ **to break a contract** to fail to carry out the duties of a contract ○ *The company has broken the contract* or *the agreement.* □ **to break an engagement to do something** not to do what has been agreed

breakages /'breɪkɪdʒɪz/ *plural noun* items that have been broken ○ *Customers are expected to pay for breakages.*

break down /ˌbreɪk 'daʊn/ *verb* **1.** to stop working because of mechanical failure ○ *The two-way radio has broken down.* ○ *What do you do when your squad car breaks down?* **2.** to stop ○ *negotiations broke down after six hours* ○ *Their marriage broke down and they separated.* **3.** to show all the items in a total list ○ *We broke the crime figures down into crimes against the person and crimes against property.* ○ *Can you break down this invoice into spare parts and labour?*

breakdown /'breɪkˌdaʊn/ *noun* **1.** an occasion of stopping work because of mechanical failure ○ *We cannot communicate with our squad car because of the breakdown of the radio link.* **2.** a situation in which something such as discussions or negotiations fail or begin to fail ○ *a breakdown in talks* **3.** □ **irretrievable breakdown of a marriage** situation where the two spouses can no longer live together, where the marriage cannot be saved and therefore divorce proceedings can be started **4.** the process of showing details item by item ○ *Give me a breakdown of the latest clear-up figures.*

break in /ˌbreɪk 'ɪn/ *verb* to go into a building by force in order to steal ○ *Burglars broke in through a window at the back of the house.*

break-in /'breɪk ɪn/ *noun* the crime of breaking into a house (*informal*) ○ *There have been three break-ins in our street in one week.*

breaking and entering /ˌbreɪkɪŋ ənd 'entərɪŋ/ *noun* the crime of going into a building by force and stealing things ○ *He was charged with breaking and entering.* ◊ **housebreaking**

break into /ˌbreɪk 'ɪntə/ *verb* to go into a building by force to steal things ○ *Their house was broken into while they were on holiday.* ○ *Looters broke into the supermarket.*

break off /ˌbreɪk 'ɒf/ *verb* to stop ○ *We broke off the discussion at midnight.* ○ *Management broke off negotiations with the union.*

break up /ˌbreɪk 'ʌp/ *verb* **1.** to split something large into small sections ○ *The company was broken up and separate divisions sold off.* **2.** to come to an end, or make something come to an end ○ *The meeting broke up at 12.30.* ○ *The police broke up the protest meeting.*

breathalyse /'breθəlaɪz/ *verb* to test someone's breath using a breathalyser

breathalyser /'breθəlaɪzə/ *noun* a device for testing the amount of alcohol a person has drunk by testing his or her breath

breath test /'breθ test/ *noun* a test where a person's breath is sampled to establish the amount of alcohol he or she has drunk

bribe /braɪb/ *noun* money offered corruptly to someone to get him to do something to help you ○ *The police sergeant was dismissed for taking bribes.* ■ *verb* to give someone a bribe ○ *He bribed the police sergeant to get the charges dropped.*

bribery /'braɪb(ə)ri/ *noun* the crime of giving someone a bribe ○ *Bribery in the security warehouse is impossible to stamp out.*

bridewell /'braɪwel/ *noun* the cells in a police station (*slang*)

brief /briːf/ *noun* **1.** details of a client's case, prepared by a solicitor and given to the barrister who is going to argue the case in court **2.** a lawyer or barrister (*slang*) ■ *verb* to explain something to someone in detail ○ *The superintendent briefed the press on the progress of the investigation.* □ **to brief a barrister** to give a barrister all the details of the case which he or she will argue in court

briefing /'briːfɪŋ/ *noun* an occasion when someone is given details about

something that is going to happen ○ *All the detectives on the case attended a briefing given by the commander.*

bring forward /ˌbrɪŋ 'fɔːwəd/ *verb* to make earlier ○ *to bring forward the date of repayment* ○ *The date of the hearing has been brought forward to March.*

bring in /ˌbrɪŋ 'ɪn/ *verb* to decide a verdict ○ *The jury brought in a verdict of not guilty.*

bring up /ˌbrɪŋ 'ʌp/ *verb* to refer to something for the first time ○ *The chairman brought up the question of corruption in the police force.*

brothel /'brɒθ(ə)l/ *noun* a house where sexual intercourse is offered for money

bug /bʌg/ *noun* a small device which can record conversations secretly and send them to a secret radio receiver ○ *The cleaners planted a bug under the lawyer's desk.* Also called **bugging device, surveillance device** ■ *verb* to place a secret device in a place so that conversations can be heard and recorded secretly ○ *The agents bugged the President's office.*

buggery /'bʌgəri/ *noun* a notifiable offence of sexual intercourse with animals, or rectal intercourse with man or woman

bugging device /'bʌgɪŋ dɪˌvaɪs/ *noun* same as **bug** ○ *Police found a bugging device under the lawyer's desk.*

building permit /'bɪldɪŋ ˌpɜːmɪt/ *noun* an official document which allows someone to build on a piece of land

Bullock order /'bʊlək ˌɔːdə/ *noun* in civil proceedings where the claimant has succeeded in establishing a claim against one defendant but has failed in relation to the second defendant, an order that requires the claimant to pay the successful defendant's costs but allows the money which will come from the unsuccessful defendant to be included

bumping /'bʌmpɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** a series of movements of staff between jobs which results in the final person in the chain being made redundant **2.** *US* a situation where a senior employee takes the place of a junior employee

bunco /'bʌŋkəʊ/ *noun* a dishonest act of cheating someone out of money, usually at cards (*slang*)

bundle /'bʌnd(ə)l/ *noun* ➧ **trial bundle**

burden of proof /ˌbɜːd(ə)n əv 'pruːf/ *noun* the duty to prove that something which has been alleged in court is true □ **to discharge a burden of proof** to prove something which has been alleged in court □ **the burden of proof is on the prosecution** the prosecution must prove that what it alleges is true

bureau /'bjʊərəʊ/ *noun* an office which specialises in particular work

burglar /'bɜːglə/ *noun* a person who steals or tries to steal goods from property, or who enters property intending to commit a crime

burglar alarm /'bɜːglər əˌlɑːm/ *noun* a bell which is set to ring when someone tries to break into a house or shop ○ *As he put his hand through the window he set off the burglar alarm.*

burglarise, burglarize *verb US* to steal goods from property (*informal*)

burglary /'bɜːgləri/ *noun* the crime of going into a building at night, usually by force, and stealing things ○ *He was charged with burglary.* ○ *There has been a series of burglaries in our street.*

burgle /'bɜːg(ə)l/ *verb* to steal goods from property ○ *The school was burgled when the caretaker was on holiday.*

burn /bɜːn/ *verb* to destroy by fire ○ *The chief accountant burned the documents before the police arrived.* (NOTE: **burning – burned** *or* **burnt**)

burn down /ˌbɜːn 'daʊn/ *verb* to destroy completely in a fire

business /'bɪznɪs/ *noun* **1.** the work of buying or selling □ **on business** on commercial work **2.** a commercial company ○ *He owns a small car repair business.* ○ *She runs a business from her home.* ○ *He set up in business as an insurance broker.* **3.** something that has to be discussed or dealt with ○ *The main business of the meeting was finished by 3 p.m.* □ **any other business** an item at the end of an agenda, where any matter can be raised. Abbreviation **AOB** □ **move the business forward** go on to the next item on the agenda

business call /'bɪznɪs kɔːl/ *noun* a visit to talk to someone on business

business day /'bɪznɪs deɪ/ *noun* any day except Saturdays, Sundays or bank holidays

business expenses /'bɪznɪs ɪk ˌspensɪz/ *plural noun* money spent on running a business, not on stock or assets

business hours /'bɪznɪs ˌaʊəz/ *plural noun* the period, usually between 9 a.m. and 5–6 p.m., when a business is staffed and open to the public

business letter /'bɪznɪs ˌletə/ *noun* a letter which deals with business matters

business name /'bɪznɪs neɪm/ *noun* the name under which a firm or company trades

business practices /'bɪznɪs ˌpræktɪsɪz/ *plural noun* ways of managing or working in business, industry or trade

business premises /'bɪznɪs ˌpremɪsɪz/ *plural noun* a building or set of buildings and land used for the purpose of carrying out a business activity

business transaction /'bɪznɪs træn ˌzækʃən/ *noun* the activity or an act of buying or selling something

bust /bʌst/ *verb* to catch and punish someone for doing something that is illegal

bylaw /'baɪlɔː/**, byelaw, by-law, byelaw** *noun* **1.** a rule governing an aspect of the internal running of a corporation, club or association such as number of meetings or election of officers **2.** a rule or law made by a local authority or public body and not by central government ○ *The bylaws forbid playing ball in the public gardens.* ○ *According to the local bylaws, noise must be limited in the town centre.*

COMMENT: Bylaws must be made by bodies which have been authorized by Parliament before they can become legally effective.

C

© the copyright symbol

COMMENT: The symbol adopted by the Universal Copyright Convention in Geneva in 1952. Publications bearing the symbol are automatically covered by the convention. The copyright line in a book should give the © followed by the name of the copyright holder and the date.

CAB *abbreviation* Citizens' Advice Bureau

cadaver /kə'dævə/ *noun US* a dead human body (NOTE: The British term is **corpse**.)

cadet /kə'det/ *noun* a trainee police officer ○ *He has entered the police cadet college.* ○ *She joined the police force as a cadet.*

calendar /'kælındə/ *noun* a book or set of sheets of paper showing all the days and months in a year ○ *a desk calendar*

calendar month /'kælındə mʌnθ/ *noun* a whole month as on a calendar, from the 1st to the 28th, 30th or 31st

calendar year /ˌkælındə 'jɪə/ *noun* one year from the 1st January to 31st December

call /kɔːl/ *noun* **1.** a conversation on the telephone **2.** a demand for repayment of a loan by a lender **3.** a demand by a company to pay for shares **4.** the admission of a barrister to the bar **5.** a particular number of years a barrister has practised at the bar □ **he is ten years' call** he has been practising for ten years **6.** a visit ○ *The doctor makes six calls a day.* ■ *verb* **1.** to telephone to someone ○ *I shall call you at your office tomorrow.* **2.** to admit someone to the bar to practise as a barrister ○ *He was called (to the bar) in 1989.*

call in /ˌkɔːl 'ın/ *verb* **1.** to ask someone to come to help ○ *The local police decided to call in the CID to help in the murder hunt.* **2.** to ask for plans to be sent to the ministry for examination ○ *The minister has called in the plans for the new supermarket.*

camera /'kæm(ə)rə/ ◗ **in camera**

campaign /kæm'peın/ *noun* a planned method of working ○ *The government has launched a campaign against drunken drivers.* ■ *verb* to try to change something by writing about it, organising protest meetings or lobbying Members of Parliament ○ *They are campaigning for the abolition of the death penalty* or *they are campaigning against the death penalty.* ○ *She is campaigning for the re-introduction of the death penalty.* ○ *He is campaigning for a revision of the Official Secrets Act.*

campaigner /kæm'peınə/ *noun* a person who is working actively to support an issue or organisation ○ *He is an experienced political campaigner.* ○ *She is a campaigner for women's rights.*

cancel /'kænsəl/ *verb* **1.** to stop something which has been agreed or planned ○ *to cancel an appointment* or *a meeting* ○ *to cancel a contract* **2.** □ **to cancel a cheque** to stop payment of a cheque which you have signed

cancellandi ◗ **animus cancellandi**

cancellation /ˌkænsə'leıʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of stopping something which has been agreed or planned ○ *cancellation of an appointment* ○ *cancellation of an agreement*

cancellation clause /ˌkænsə 'leıʃ(ə)n klɔːz/ *noun* a clause in a contract which states the terms on which the contract may be cancelled

candidacy /'kændıdəsi/, **candidature** /'kændıdətʃə/ *noun* the state of be-

ing a candidate ○ *The Senator has announced his candidacy for the Presidential election.*

candidate /'kændɪdeɪt/ *noun* **1.** somebody who applies for a job ○ *There are six candidates for the post of security guard.* ○ *We interviewed ten candidates for the job.* **2.** somebody who puts themselves forward for election ○ *Which candidate are you voting for?*

canon law /ˌkænən 'lɔː/ *noun* law applied by the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches to priests (NOTE: Formerly it was also applied to other members of the church in cases of marriage, legitimacy and personal property.)

capacity /kə'pæsɪti/ *noun* **1.** the amount of something which can be produced or contained **2.** the amount of space that exists somewhere **3.** ability ○ *He has a particular capacity for hard work.* **4.** the ability to enter into a legally binding agreement, which is one of the essential elements of a contract □ **person of full age and capacity** person who is over eighteen years of age and of sound mind, and therefore able to enter into a contract **5.** a role or job □ **in his capacity as chairman** acting as chairman □ **speaking in an official capacity** speaking officially

capax ◗ **doli capax**

capias /'kæpiæs/ *phrase* a Latin word meaning 'that you take': used in phrases to indicate that several writs have been issued together

capias ad respondendum /ˌkæpiæs æd ˌrespɒn'dendəm/ *noun* a writ for the arrest of a defendant and an order to attend court

capita /'kæpɪtə/ ◗ **per capita**

capital /'kæpɪt(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** the money, property and assets used in a business □ **to make political capital out of something** to use something to give you an advantage in politics ○ *The Opposition made a lot of capital out of the Minister's mistake on TV.* ◊ **expenditure 2.** a town or city where the government of a province or country is situated ○ *London is the capital of England and Washington is the capital of the USA.*

capital allowance /ˌkæpɪt(əl ə 'laʊəns/ *noun* a variable tax reduction resulting from the expenditure on items such as plant and machinery used in connection with the business

capital assets /ˌkæpɪt(ə)l 'æsets/ *plural noun* property or machinery which a company owns and uses in its business

capital crime /ˌkæpɪt(ə)l 'kraɪm/ *noun* a crime for which the punishment is death (NOTE: In the UK the only capital crime is now treason.)

capital expenditure /ˌkæpɪt(ə)l ɪk 'spendɪtʃə/ *noun* **1.** money spent on assets such as property or machinery **2.** the major costs of a council or central government, such as schools, roads, hospitals, etc.

capital gains /ˌkæpɪt(ə)l 'geɪnz/ *plural noun* money made by selling a fixed asset or by selling shares at a profit

capital gains tax /ˌkæpɪt(ə)l 'geɪnz ˌtæks/ *noun* the tax payable where an asset has increased in value during the period of ownership. Abbreviation **CGT**

capital goods /'kæpɪt(ə)l gʊdz/ *plural noun* machinery, buildings and raw materials which are used in the production of goods

capital letters /ˌkæpɪt(ə)l 'letəz/ *plural noun* letters written as A, B, C, D, etc., and not as a, b, c, d, etc. ○ *Write your name in block capitals at the top of the form.*

capital levy /ˌkæpɪt(ə)l 'levi/ *noun* a tax on the value of a person's property and possessions

capital loss /ˌkæpɪt(ə)l 'lɒs/ *noun* a loss made by selling assets

capital punishment /ˌkæpɪt(ə)l 'pʌnɪʃmən(ə)t/ *noun* punishment of a criminal by execution

capital transfer tax /ˌkæpɪt(ə)l 'trænsfɜː ˌtæks/ *noun* a tax paid on the transfer of capital or assets from one person to another. Abbreviation **CTT**

Capitol /'kæpɪt(ə)l/ *noun US* the building in Washington, D.C. where the US Senate and House of Representatives meet

Capitol Hill /ˌkæpɪt(ə)l 'hɪl/ *noun US* the hill on which the Capitol building

stands, together with other important government buildings

caption /'kæpʃən/ *noun* a formal heading for an indictment, affidavit or other court document, giving details such as the names of the parties, the court which is hearing the case, and relevant reference numbers

card file /'kɑːd faɪl/ *noun* information kept in alphabetical order on small cards

card holder /'kɑːd ˌhəʊldə/ *noun* a frame which protects a card or a message

card sharper /'kɑːd ˌʃɑːpə/ *noun* somebody who makes a living by cheating at cards

care /keə/ *noun* **1.** the act of looking after someone ○ *The children were put in the care of the social services department.* **2.** the activity of making sure that someone is not harmed

care and control /ˌkeə ən kən'trəʊl/ *noun* responsibility for day-to-day decisions relating to the welfare of a child

careless /'keələs/ *adjective* without paying attention to other people □ **careless driving** driving without due care and attention □ **causing death by careless driving** the offence committed by an individual who is unfit to drive as a result drink or drugs, causing the death of another person

care order /'keə ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a court order placing a child under the care of a local authority, granted when the child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm if it continues to remain under its parents care

care proceedings /'keə prəˌsiːdɪŋz/ *plural noun* court proceedings to determine whether a child should be made the subject of a care order. ◊ **care order**

car insurance /'kɑːr ɪnˌʃʊərəns/ *noun* insuring a car, the driver and passengers in case of accident

carriageway /'kærɪdʒweɪ/ *noun* a public way where people have a right to go in vehicles

carrier /'kæriə/ *noun* a person or company which takes goods from one place to another

carrier's lien /ˌkæriəz 'liːən/ *noun* the right of a carrier to hold goods until he or she has been paid for carrying them

carry /'kæri/ *verb* **1.** to take from one place to another ○ *The train was carrying a consignment of cars.* □ **carrying offensive weapons** the offence of holding a weapon or something such as a bottle which could be used as a weapon **2.** to vote to approve □ **the motion was carried** the motion was accepted after a vote **3.** to be punishable by ○ *The offence carries a maximum sentence of two years' imprisonment.*

carte blanche /ˌkɑːt 'blɑːntʃ/ *phrase* permission given by someone to another person, allowing him or her to act in any way necessary to achieve something ○ *He has carte blanche to act on behalf of the company* or *the company has given him carte blanche to act on its behalf.*

case /keɪs/ *noun* **1.** a possible crime and its investigation by the police ○ *We have three detectives working on the case.* ○ *The police are treating the case as murder* or *are treating it as a murder case.* ○ *We had six cases of looting during the night.* **2.** □ **the case is being heard next week** the case is coming to court **3.** a set of arguments or facts put forward by one side in legal proceedings ○ *Defence counsel put his case.* ○ *There is a strong case against the accused.* □ **the case rests** all the arguments for one side have been put forward □ **no case to answer** submission by the defence (after the prosecution has put its case) that the case should be dismissed ■ *verb* □ **to case a joint** to look at a building carefully before deciding how to break into it (*slang*)

COMMENT: A case is referred to by the names of the parties, the date and the reference source where details of it can be found: *Smith v. Jones 1985 2 W.L.R. 250* This shows that the case involved Smith as plaintiff and Jones as defendant, it was heard in 1985, and is reported in the second volume of the Weekly Law Reports for that year on page 250.

case law /'keɪs lɔː/ *noun* law established by precedents, that is by the decisions of courts in earlier similar cases

case management conference /keɪs ˌmænɪdʒmənt 'kɒnf(ə)rəns/ *noun* a court hearing fixed when a case is

allocated to the fast track, when the parties involved and their legal representatives are asked about their preparations for the case and the court decides on matters such as the disclosure of documents and expert evidence

case stated /ˌkeɪs 'steɪtɪd/ *noun* a statement of the facts of a case which has been heard in a lower court such as a Magistrates' Court, drawn up so that a higher court such as the High Court can decide on an appeal ○ *She appealed by way of case stated.* ○ *The Appeal Court dismissed the appeal by way of case stated.*

case summary /ˌkeɪs 'sʌmərɪ/ *noun* a short document of not more than 500 words prepared by a claimant to help the court understand what the case is about

cash items /'kæʃ ˌaɪtəmz/ *plural noun* goods sold for cash

cash offer /'kæʃ ˌɒfə/ *noun* an offer to pay in cash

cash on delivery /ˌkæʃ ɒn dɪ 'lɪv(ə)rɪ/ *noun* payment in cash when the goods are delivered

cash reserves /'kæʃ rɪˌzɜːvz/ *plural noun* a company's reserves in cash deposits or bills kept in case of urgent need

cash settlement /ˌkæʃ 'set(ə)lmənt/ *noun* the payment of an invoice in cash, not by cheque

cash terms /'kæʃ tɜːmz/ *plural noun* lower terms which apply if the customer pays cash

cash transaction /'kæʃ træn ˌzækʃən/ *noun* a transaction paid for in cash

cast /kɑːst/ *verb* □ **to cast a vote** to vote ○ *The number of votes cast in the election was 125,458.*

casting vote /ˌkɑːstɪŋ 'vəʊt/ *noun* a vote used by the chair in a case where the votes for and against a proposal are equal ○ *The chairman has a casting vote.* ○ *He used his casting vote to block the motion.* (NOTE: **casting – cast – has cast**)

casual /'kæʒuəl/ *adjective* not permanent or not regular ○ *a casual employee*

casual labour /ˌkæʒuəl 'leɪbə/ *noun* people who are hired to work for a short period

casual work /'kæʒuəl wɜːk/ *noun* work where people are hired for a short period

casus belli /ˌkɑːzəs 'beliː/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'case for war': a reason which is used to justify a declaration of war

category /'kætɪg(ə)rɪ/ *noun* a type of item ○ *The theft comes into the category of petty crime.*

category A prisoner /ˌkætɪg(ə)rɪ eɪ 'prɪz(ə)nə/ *noun* a prisoner who is regarded as a danger to the public and must be closely guarded to prevent escape

category B prisoner /ˌkætɪg(ə)rɪ biː 'prɪz(ə)nə/ *noun* a prisoner who is less dangerous than a category A prisoner but who still has to be guarded carefully to prevent escape

category C prisoner /ˌkætɪg(ə)rɪ siː 'prɪz(ə)nə/ *noun* a prisoner who is not likely to try to escape, but who cannot be kept in an open prison

category D prisoner /ˌkætɪg(ə)rɪ diː 'prɪz(ə)nə/ *noun* a reliable prisoner who can be kept in an open prison

causa ♦ **donatio mortis causa**

cause /kɔːz/ *noun* **1.** something which makes something happen □ **to show cause** to appear before a court to show why an order nisi should not be made absolute ○ *The judgment debtor was given fourteen days in which to show cause why the charging order should not be made absolute.* **2.** legal proceedings ■ *verb* to make something happen ○ *The recession caused hundreds of bankruptcies.*

cause list /'kɔːz lɪst/ *noun* a list of cases which are to be heard by a court

cause of action /ˌkɔːz əv 'ækʃən/ *noun* the reasons that entitle someone to start legal proceedings

caution /'kɔːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a warning from a police officer, telling someone not to repeat a minor crime ○ *The boys were let off with a caution.* **2.** a warning by a police officer to someone who is to be charged with a crime that what he or she says may be used as evidence in a trial ○ *He typed his confession under caution.* **3.** a document lodged at the Land Registry to prevent land or property being sold

without notice to the cautioner (NOTE: In senses 2 and 3 **caution** can be used without **the** or **a**: *to lodge caution.*) ■ *verb* **1.** to warn someone that what he or she has done is wrong and should not be repeated ○ *The policeman cautioned the boys after he caught them stealing fruit.* **2.** to warn someone who is to be charged with a crime that what he or she says may be used as evidence in a trial ○ *The accused was arrested by the detectives and cautioned.*

cautioner /'kɔːʃ(ə)nə/ *noun* somebody who lodges caution at the Land Registry

caveat /'kæviæt/ *noun* a warning □ **to enter a caveat** to warn legally that you have an interest in a case or a grant of probate, and that no steps can be taken without notice to you

caveat emptor /ˌkæviæt 'emptɔː/ *phrase* 'let the buyer beware': used to show that the buyer is personally responsible for checking that what he or she buys is in good order

caveator /'kæviætə/ *noun* somebody who warns the court not to give probate without asking his or her consent

CB *abbreviation* confined to barracks

CC *abbreviation* Chief Constable

CCR *abbreviation* County Court Rules

CD *abbreviation* certificate of deposit

CDS *abbreviation* Criminal Defence Service

cease and desist order /siːs ən dɪ ˌzɪst 'ɔːdə/ *noun US* a court order telling someone to stop doing something

cell /sel/ *noun* a small room in a prison or police station where a criminal can be kept locked up ○ *She was put in a small cell for the night.* ○ *He shares a cell with two other prisoners.*

cellmate /'selmeɪt/ *noun* somebody who shares a prison cell with someone else

censor /'sensə/ *noun* an official whose job is to say whether books, films or TV programmes, etc., are acceptable and can be published or shown to the public ○ *The film was cut* or *was banned* or *was passed by the censor.* ■ *verb* to say that a book, film or TV programme, etc., cannot be shown or published because it is not considered right to do so ○ *All press reports are censored by the government.* ○ *The news of the riots was censored.* ○ *The TV report has been censored and only parts of it can be shown.*

censorship /'sensəʃɪp/ *noun* the act of censoring ○ *TV reporters complained of government censorship.* ○ *The government has imposed strict press censorship* or *censorship of the press.*

censure /'senʃə/ *noun* a criticism ■ *verb* to criticise

Central Criminal Court /ˌsentrəl 'krɪmɪn(ə)l kɔːt/ *noun* the Crown Court in central London. Also called **Old Bailey**

central government /ˌsentrəl 'gʌv(ə)nmənt/ *noun* the main organisation dealing with the affairs of the whole country

central office /ˌsentrəl 'ɒfɪs/ *noun* the main office which controls all smaller offices

centre /'sentə/ *noun* an office or building where people can go for information and advice. ◊ **Legal Aid Centre** (NOTE: The US spelling is **center**.)

certificate /sə'tɪfɪkət/ *noun* an official document which shows that something is true

certificated bankrupt /səˌtɪfɪkeɪtɪd 'bæŋkrʌpt/ *noun* a bankrupt who has been discharged from bankruptcy with a certificate to show that he or she was not at fault

certificate of approval /səˌtɪfɪkət əv ə'pruːv(ə)l/ *noun* a document showing that an item has been officially approved

certificate of deposit /səˌtɪfɪkət əv dɪ'pɒzɪt/ *noun* a document from a bank showing that money has been deposited. Abbreviation **CD**

certificate of incorporation /sə ˌtɪfɪkət əv ɪnˌkɔːpə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies showing that a company has been officially incorporated and the date at which it came into existence

certificate of judgment /səˌtɪfɪkət əv 'dʒʌdʒmənt/ *noun* an official document showing the decision of a court

certificate of origin /sə,tɪfɪkət əv 'ɒrɪdʒɪn/ *noun* a document showing where goods were made or produced

certificate of registration /sə ,tɪfɪkət əv ,redʒɪ'streɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a document showing that an item has been registered

certificate of registry /sə,tɪfɪkət əv 'redʒɪstri/ *noun* a document showing that a ship has been officially registered

certificate of service /sə,tɪfɪkət əv 'sɜːvɪs/ *noun* a certificate by which a court proves that a document was sent and is deemed to have been served

certified accountant /,sɜːtɪfaɪd ə 'kaʊntənt/ *noun* an accountant who has passed the professional examinations and is a member of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants

certified cheque /,sɜːtɪfaɪd 'tʃek/ *noun* a cheque which a bank says is good and will be paid out of money put aside from the bank account

certified copy /,sɜːtɪfaɪd 'kɒpi/ *noun* a document which is certified as being exactly the same in content as the original

certify /'sɜːtɪ,faɪ/ *verb* to make an official declaration in writing ○ *I certify that this is a true copy.* ○ *The document is certified as a true copy.*

certiorari /,sɜːtiə'rɑːri/ *phrase* a Latin word meaning 'to be informed'

cessate grant /'seseɪt ,grɑːnt/ *noun* a special grant of probate made because of the incapacity of an executor, or a grant made to renew a grant which has expired

cesser /'sesə/ *noun* (*of a mortgage, charter, etc.*) the ending

cession /'seʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of giving up property to someone, especially a creditor

CFI *abbreviation* Court of First Instance

CGT *abbreviation* capital gains tax

chair /tʃeə/ *noun* the role of chairperson presiding over a meeting ○ *to be in the chair* ○ *She was voted into the chair.* ○ *She is Chair of the Finance Committee.* ○ *This can be done by Chair's action and confirmed later.* □ **Mr Jones took the chair** Mr Jones presided over the meeting □ **to address the chair** in a meeting, to speak to the chairman and not directly to the rest of the people at the meeting □ **to ask a question through the chair** to ask someone a question directly, by speaking to him or her through the chairman ○ *May I ask the councillor through the chair why he did not declare his interest in the matter?* ■ *verb* to preside over a meeting ○ *The meeting was chaired by Mrs Smith.*

chairman /'tʃeəmən/ *noun* **1.** a person who is in charge of a meeting and holds the casting vote ○ *chairman of the magistrates* or *of the bench* ○ *Mr Howard was chairman* or *acted as chairman.* □ **Mr Chairman**, **Madam Chairman** way of speaking to the chairman **2.** a person who presides over meetings of a Committee of the House of Commons or of a local council **3.** somebody who presides over the board meetings of a company ○ *the chairman of the board* or *the company chairman*

chairman and managing director /,tʃeəmən ən ,mænɪdʒɪŋ daɪ'rektə/ *noun* a managing director who is also chairman of the board of directors

chairman of the justices /,tʃeəmən əv ðɪ 'dʒʌstɪss/ *noun* the chief magistrate in a magistrates' court

chairmanship /'tʃeəmənʃɪp/ *noun* the role of being a chairman □ **the committee met under the chairmanship of Mr Jones** Mr Jones chaired the meeting of the committee

chairperson /'tʃeəpɜːs(ə)n/ *noun* a person who is in charge of a meeting and holds the casting vote

chairwoman /'tʃeəwʊmən/ *noun* a woman who is in charge of a meeting and holds the casting vote

challenge /'tʃælɪndʒ/ *noun* the act of objecting to a decision and asking for it to be set aside ■ *verb* to refuse to accept a juror or piece of evidence ○ *to challenge a sentence passed by magistrates by appeal to the Crown Court*

challenge for cause /,tʃælɪndʒ fə 'kɔːz/ *noun US* an objection to a proposed juror, stating the reasons for the objection

challenge without cause /,tʃælɪndʒ wɪ'ðaʊt kɔːz/ *noun US* an

objection to a proposed juror, not stating the reasons for the objection

chamber /'tʃeɪmbə/ *noun* a room where a committee or legislature meets ○ *The meeting will be held in the council chamber.*

chambers /'tʃeɪmbəz/ *plural noun* **1.** the offices of a group of barristers who work together and share the same staff (NOTE: actually called 'a set of chambers') **2.** the office of a judge □ **the judge heard the case in chambers** in private rooms, without the public being present and not in open court

champerty /'tʃæmpəti/ *noun* formerly, financial help given to a person starting a proceedings against a party, where the person giving help has a share in the damages to be recovered

Chancellor /'tʃɑːnsə(ə)lə/ *noun* **1.** ➧ **Lord Chancellor 2.** *US* a judge who presides over a court of equity

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster /ˌtʃɑːnsələ əv ðiː 'dʌtʃi/ *noun* a member of the British government with no specific responsibilities

Chancellor of the Exchequer /ˌtʃɑːnsələr əv ðiː ɪks'tʃekə/ *noun* the chief finance minister in the British government

Chancery Bar /'tʃɑːnsəri bɑː/ *noun* the group of barristers who specialise in the Chancery Division

Chancery business /ˌtʃɑːnsəri 'bɪznɪs/ *noun* the range of legal cases relating to the sale of land, mortgages, trusts, estates, bankruptcies, partnerships, patents and copyrights, probate, and cases involving companies

Chancery Court /'tʃɑːnsəri kɔːt/ *noun* formerly, the court presided over by the Lord Chancellor, which established case law or equity

Chancery Division /ˌtʃɑːnsəri dɪ 'vɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* one of the three divisions of the High Court, dealing with matters such as wills, partnerships and companies, taxation and bankruptcies

change of use /ˌtʃeɪndʒ əv 'juːs/ *noun* an order allowing a property to be used in a different way, e.g. a house to be used as a business office, or a shop to be used as a factory

channel /'tʃæn(ə)l/ *noun* the way in which information or goods are passed from one place to another □ **to go through the official channels** to deal with government officials, especially when making a request □ **to open up new channels of communication** to find new ways of communicating with someone

chapter /'tʃæptə/ *noun* **1.** an official term for an Act of Parliament **2.** *US* a section of an Act of Congress

Chapter 7 /ˌtʃæptə 'sevən/ *noun US* a section of the US Bankruptcy Reform Act 1978 which sets out the rules for the liquidation of an incorporated company

Chapter 11 /ˌtʃæptə 'ten/ *noun US* a section of the US Bankruptcy Reform Act 1978, which allows a corporation to be protected from demands made by its creditors for a period of time, while it is reorganised with a view to paying its debts. The officers of the corporation will negotiate with its creditors as to the best way of reorganising the business.

Chapter 13 /ˌtʃæptə θɜːr'tiːn/ *noun US* a section of the Bankruptcy Reform Act 1978 which allows a business to continue trading and to pay off its creditors by regular monthly payments over a period of time

character /'kærɪktə/ *noun* the general qualities of a person which make him or her different from others □ **he is a man of good character** he is an honest, hard-working or decent man □ **to give someone a character reference** to say that someone has good qualities □ **to introduce character evidence** to produce witnesses to say that a person is of good or bad character

charge /tʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* **1.** money which must be paid as the price of a service ○ *to make no charge for delivery* ○ *to make a small charge for rental* ○ *There is no charge for service* or *no charge is made for service.* **2.** □ **charge on land**, **charge over property** a mortgage or liability on a property which has been used as security for a loan □ **charge by way of legal mortgage** a way of borrowing money on the security of a property, where the mortgagor signs a deed which gives the mortgagee an interest in the property **3.**

an official statement in a court accusing someone of having committed a crime ○ *He appeared in court on a charge of embezzling* or *on an embezzlement charge.* ○ *The clerk of the court read out the charges.* □ **to answer charges** to plead guilty or not guilty to a charge □ **the charges against him were withdrawn**, **dropped** the prosecution decided not to continue with the trial □ **to press charges against someone** to say formally that someone has committed a crime ○ *He was very angry when his neighbour's son set fire to his car, but decided not to press charges.* **4.** a set of instructions given by a judge to a jury, summing up the evidence and giving advice on the points of law which have to be considered ■ *verb* **1.** to ask someone to pay for services ○ *to charge £5 for delivery* ○ *How much does he charge?* □ **he charges £9 an hour** he asks to be paid £9 for an hour's work **2.** (*in a court*) to accuse someone formally of having committed a crime ○ *He was charged with embezzling his clients' money.* ○ *They were charged with murder.* (NOTE: You charge someone **with** a crime.)

chargeable /'tʃɑːdʒəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being able to be charged

chargee /tʃɑː'dʒiː/ *noun* somebody who holds a charge over a property

charge sheet /'tʃɑːdʒ ʃiːt/ *noun* a document listing the charges which a magistrate will hear, listing the charges against the accused together with details of the crime committed

charging order /'tʃɑːdʒɪŋ ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a court order made in favour of a judgment creditor granting them a charge over a debtor's property

charitable trust /'tʃærɪtəb(ə)l trʌst/, **charitable corporation** *US* /ˌtʃærɪtəb(ə)l ˌkɔːpə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a trust which benefits the public as a whole, by promoting education or religion, helping the poor or doing other useful work

Charity Commissioners /'tʃærɪtɪ kəˌmɪʃ(ə)nəz/ *plural noun* a UK body which governs charities and sees that they follow the law and use their funds for the purposes intended

charter /'tʃɑːtə/ *noun* **1.** a document from the Crown establishing a town, a corporation, a university or a company **2.** the hire of transport for a special purpose □ **on charter to** hired by ○ *a boat on charter to Mr Smith*

chartered /'tʃɑːtəd/ *adjective* **1.** (*of a company*) set up by royal charter and not registered as a company **2.** □ **chartered ship**, **bus, plane** ship or bus or plane which has been hired for a special purpose

Chartered Accountant /ˌtʃɑːtəd ə 'kaʊntənt/ *noun* an accountant who has passed the professional examinations and is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants

charterer /'tʃɑːtərə/ *noun* a person who hires a ship, plane or train for a special purpose

chartering /'tʃɑːtərɪŋ/ *noun* the act of hiring a ship, plane or train for a special purpose

charterparty /'tʃɑːtəpɑːti/ *noun* a contract where the owner of a ship charters it to someone for carrying goods

chattel mortgage /'tʃæt(ə)l ˌmɔːgɪdʒ/ *noun US* a mortgage using personal property as security

chattels personal /ˌtʃæt(ə)lz 'pɜːs(ə)n(ə)l/ *noun* any property that is not real property

chattels real /ˌtʃæt(ə)lz 'rɪəl/ *noun* leaseholds

cheap labour /ˌtʃiːp 'leɪbə/ *noun* workers who do not earn much money

cheap money /ˌtʃiːp 'mʌni/ *noun* money which can be borrowed at a low rate of interest

check /tʃek/ *noun* **1.** a sudden stop □ **to put a check on the sale of firearms** to stop some firearms being sold **2.** an investigation or examination ○ *a routine check of the fire equipment* ○ *The auditors carried out checks on the petty cash book.* ■ *verb* **1.** to stop or delay something ○ *to check the entry of contraband into the country* **2.** to examine or to investigate ○ *to check that an invoice is correct* ○ *to check and sign for goods* □ **he checked the computer printout against the invoices** he examined the

printout and the invoices to see if the figures were the same

check sample /'tʃek ˌsɑːmp(ə)l/ *noun* a sample to be used to see if a consignment is acceptable

cheque /tʃek/**, check** *US* /tʃek/ *noun* **1.** an order to a bank to pay money from your account to the person whose name is written on it **2.** □ **to endorse a cheque** to sign a cheque on the back to make it payable to someone else □ **to make out a cheque to someone** to write out a cheque to someone □ **to pay by cheque** to pay by writing a cheque, and not by using cash or a credit card □ **to pay a cheque into your account** to deposit a cheque □ **to bounce a cheque** to refuse to pay a cheque because there is not enough money in the account to pay it (*informal*) □ **the bank referred the cheque to drawer** the bank returned the cheque to person who wrote it because there was not enough money in the account to pay it □ **to sign a cheque** to sign on the front of a cheque to show that you authorise the bank to pay the money from your account □ **to stop a cheque** to ask a bank not to pay a cheque which you have written

cheque account /'tʃek əˌkaʊnt/ *noun* a bank account which allows the customer to write cheques

chief /tʃiːf/ *adjective* □ **in chief** in person

Chief Constable /ˌtʃiːf 'kʌnstəb(ə)l/ *noun* the person in charge of a police force

Chief Inspector /ˌtʃiːf ɪn'spektə/ *noun* a rank in the police force above Inspector or Superintendent

Chief Inspector of Prisons /ˌtʃiːf ɪnˌspektə əv 'prɪzənz/ *noun* a government official who is the head of the Inspectorate of Prisons, and whose job is to inspect prisons to see that they are being run correctly and efficiently

Chief Justice /ˌtʃiːf 'dʒʌstɪs/ *noun* **1.** *US* a senior judge in a court **2.** the presiding justice of the US Supreme Court

child /tʃaɪld/ *noun* a person under the age of 18

COMMENT: In Great Britain a child does not have full legal status until the age of eighteen. A contract is not binding on a child, and a child cannot own land, cannot make a will, cannot vote, cannot drive a car (under the age of seventeen). A child cannot marry before the age of sixteen, and can only marry between the ages of 16 and 18 with written permission of his or her parents. A child who is less than ten years old is not considered capable of committing a crime; a child between ten and fourteen years of age may be considered capable of committing a crime if there is evidence of malice or knowledge, and so children of these ages can in certain circumstances be convicted. In criminal law the term 'child' is used for children between the ages of 10 and 14; for children between 14 and 17, the term 'young person' is used; all children are termed 'juveniles'.

child benefit /ˌtʃaɪld 'benɪfɪt/ *noun* money paid by the state to the person who is responsible for a child under 16 years of age, or 19 if the child is in full-time education

child destruction /ˌtʃaɪld dɪ 'strʌkʃən/ *noun* the notifiable offence of killing an unborn child capable of being born alive

child in care /ˌtʃaɪld ɪn 'keə/ *noun* a child who is the subject of a care order and is therefore in the care of the local social services department

child stealing /'tʃaɪld ˌstiːlɪŋ/ *noun US* the notifiable offence of taking away a child from its parents or guardian

child support /'tʃaɪld səˌpɔːt/ *noun US* money paid as part of a divorce settlement, to help maintain a child of divorced parents

Child Support Agency /ˌtʃaɪld sə 'pɔːt ˌeɪdʒənsi/ *noun* an agency of the Department for Work and Pensions, created by the Child Support Act 1991, which has responsibility for the assessment, review, collection and enforcement of maintenance for children, which was previously supervised by the courts. Abbreviation **CSA**

chose /tʃəʊz/ *French word meaning* 'item' or 'thing' □ **chose in action** a personal right which can be enforced or claimed as if it were property (such as a patent, copyright, debt or cheque) □ **chose in possession** a physical thing

which can be owned such as a piece of furniture

Christmas Day /ˌkrɪsməs 'deɪ/ *noun* 25th December, one of the four quarter days when rent is payable on land

CID *abbreviation* Criminal Investigation department

circuit /'sɜːkɪt/ *noun* one of six divisions of England and Wales for legal purposes ○ *He is a judge on the Welsh Circuit.*

COMMENT: The six circuits are: Northern, North-Eastern, Midland and Oxford, Wales and Chester, South-Eastern, and Western.

circuit judge /'sɜːkɪt dʒʌdʒ/ *noun* a judge in the Crown Court or a County Court

circular letter /ˌsɜːkjʊlə 'letə/ *noun* a letter sent to many people

circulation /ˌsɜːkjʊ'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* □ **to put money into circulation** to issue new notes to business and the public

circumstances /'sɜːkəmstænsɪz/ *plural noun* the situation as it is when something happens ○ *The police inspector described the circumstances leading to the riot.* ◊ **extenuating circumstances**

circumstantial /ˌsɜːkəm'stænʃ(ə)l/ *adjective* allowing someone to infer facts

circumstantial evidence /ˌsɜːkəmstænʃ(ə)l 'evɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* evidence which suggests that something must have happened, but does not give firm proof of it

citation /saɪ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** an official request asking someone to appear in court (NOTE: used mainly in the Scottish and American courts) **2.** the quoting of a legal case, authority or precedent **3.** a set of words used in giving someone an award or honour, explaining why the award is being made

citation clause /saɪ'teɪʃ(ə)n klɔːz/ *noun* a clause in a Bill which gives the short title by which it should be known when it becomes an Act

cite /saɪt/ *verb* **1.** to summon someone to appear in court **2.** to refer to something ○ *The judge cited several previous cases in his summing up.* **3.** to refer to an Act of Parliament using the short title ○ *This Act may be cited as the Electronic Communications Act 1999.*

citizen /'sɪtɪz(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** somebody who lives in a city **2.** somebody who has the nationality of a specific country ○ *He is a French citizen by birth.*

Citizens' Advice Bureau /ˌsɪtɪzənz əd'vaɪs ˌbjʊərəʊ/ *noun* an office where people can go to get free advice on legal and administrative problems. Abbreviation **CAB**

citizen's arrest /ˌsɪtɪz(ə)nz ə'rest/ *noun* a right of a private person to arrest without a warrant someone suspected of committing a crime

Citizen's Charter /ˌsɪtɪzənz 'tʃɑːtə/ *noun* a promise by the government that people must be fairly dealt with, in particular by government departments and state-controlled bodies

citizenship /'sɪtɪz(ə)nʃɪp/ *noun* the right of being a citizen of a country ○ *The Treaty has established European citizenship for everyone who is a citizen of the Member State of the EU.*

COMMENT: A person has British citizenship if he is born in the UK and his father or mother is a British citizen, or if his father or mother has settled in the UK, or if he is adopted in the UK by a British citizen; British citizenship can also be granted to wives of British citizens.

civic /'sɪvɪk/ *adjective* referring to a city or the official business of running a city ○ *Their civic pride showed in the beautiful gardens to be found everywhere in the city.*

civic centre /ˌsɪvɪk 'sentə/ *noun* the main offices of a city council

civic dignitaries /ˌsɪvɪk 'dɪgnɪt(ə)riz/ *plural noun* the mayor and other senior officials of a city or town

civil /'sɪv(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** referring to the rights and duties of private persons or corporate bodies, as opposed to criminal, military or ecclesiastical bodies **2.** referring to the public in general

civil action /ˌsɪv(ə)l 'ækʃən/ *noun* a court case brought by a person or a company (the claimant) against someone who is alleged to have done them wrong (the defendant)

civil court /ˌsɪv(ə)l 'kɔːt/ *noun* a court where civil actions are heard

civil disobedience /ˌsɪv(ə)l dɪsə 'biːdiəns/ *noun US* the activity of disobeying the orders of the civil authorities such as the police as an act of protest ○ *The group planned a campaign of civil disobedience as a protest against restrictions on immigrants.*

civil disorder /ˌsɪv(ə)l dɪs'ɔːdə/ *noun US* riots or fighting in public places

civilian /sə'vɪliən/ *adjective* referring to people who are not in the armed forces ○ *Civilian rule was restored after several years of military dictatorship.* ○ *The military leaders called general elections and gave way to a democratically elected civilian government.* ■ *noun* someone who is not a member of the armed forces ○ *The head of the military junta has appointed several civilians to the Cabinet.*

civil law /ˌsɪv(ə)l 'lɔː/ *noun* laws relating to people's rights and to agreements between individuals. Compare **criminal law**

civil liberties /ˌsɪv(ə)l 'lɪbətiz/ *plural noun* freedom for people to work or write or speak as they want, providing they keep within the law

Civil List /ˌsɪv(ə)l 'lɪst/ *noun* money appropriated from the Consolidated Fund for paying the Royal Family and their expenses

Civil Procedure Rules /ˌsɪv(ə)l prə 'siːdʒə ˌruːlz/ *plural noun* rules setting out how civil cases are to be brought to court and heard. Abbreviation **CPR**

civil rights /ˌsɪv(ə)l 'raɪts/ *plural noun* rights and privileges of each individual according to the law

civil strife /ˌsɪv(ə)l 'straɪf/ *noun* trouble occurring when groups of people fight each other, usually over matters of principle

Civil Trial Centre /ˌsɪv(ə)l 'traɪəl ˌsentə/ *noun* a court which deals with multi-track claims

CJ *abbreviation* Chief Justice

claim /kleɪm/ *noun* **1.** an assertion of a legal right **2.** a document used in the County Court to start a legal action □ **claim for personal injuries** a claim where the claimant claims damages for disease or physical or mental disablement **3.** a statement that someone has a right to property held by another person **4.** a request for money that you believe you should have ○ *an insurance claim* ○ *a wage claim* **5.** □ **no claims bonus** reduction of premiums to be paid because no claims have been made against the insurance policy □ **to put in a claim** to ask the insurance company officially to pay for damage or loss ○ *She put in a claim for repairs to the car.* □ **to settle a claim** to agree to pay what is asked for ■ *verb* **1.** to state a grievance in court **2.** to ask for money ○ *He claimed £100,000 damages against the cleaning firm.* ○ *She claimed for repairs to the car against her insurance.* **3.** to say that you have a right to property held by someone else ○ *He is claiming possession of the house.* ○ *No one claimed the umbrella found in my office.* **4.** to state that something is a fact ○ *He claims he never received the goods.* ○ *She claims that the shares are her property.* **5.** to attack someone in prison (*slang*) **6.** to arrest someone (*slang*)

claimant /'kleɪmənt/ *noun* **1.** a person who claims something **2.** somebody who makes a claim against someone in the civil courts. Compare **defendant** (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has replaced **plaintiff**.)

claim back /ˌkleɪm 'bæk/ *verb* to ask for money to be paid back

claim form /'kleɪm fɔːm/ *noun* **1.** a form which has to be completed when making an insurance claim ○ *He filled in the claim form and sent it to the insurance company.* **2.** a form issued by a court when requested by a claimant, containing the particulars of claim and a statement of value. ◊ **Production Centre** (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has replaced the **writ of summons**.)

COMMENT: The claim form must be served on the defendant within four months of being issued. If a claim form has been issued but not served, the defendant can ask for it to be served, and if the claimant does not do so, the claim may be dismissed.

class /klɑːs/ *verb* to put something into a category ○ *The magazine was classed as an obscene publication.*

COMMENT: In the UK the population is classified into social classes for statistical purposes. These are: **Class A:** higher managers, administrators and professionals; **Class B:** intermediate managers, administrators and professionals; **Class C1:** supervisors, clerical workers and junior managers; **Class C2:** skilled manual workers; **Class D:** semi-skilled or unskilled manual workers; **Class E:** pensioners, casual workers, long-term unemployed.

class action /ˌklɑːs 'ækʃən/ *noun US* a legal action brought on behalf of a group of people

Class A drug /ˌklɑːs eɪ 'drʌg/ *noun* a strong and dangerous drug such as cocaine, heroin, crack, or LSD

Class B drug /ˌklɑːs biː 'drʌg/ *noun* a drug such as the amphetamines, cannabis or codeine

Class C drug /ˌklɑːs siː 'drʌg/ *noun* a drug which is related to the amphetamines, e.g. benzphetamine

Class F charge /ˌklɑːs 'ef ˌtʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* a charge on a property registered by a spouse who is not the owner, claiming a right to live in the property

class gift /'klɑːs gɪft/ *noun US* a gift to a defined group of people

classified information /ˌklæsɪfaɪd ˌɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* information which is secret and can be told only to specified people

classify /'klæsɪfaɪ/ *verb* **1.** to put into groups or categories **2.** to make information secret

clause /klɔːz/ *noun* a section of a contract or of a constitution ○ *There are ten clauses in the contract.* ○ *According to clause six, payment will not be due until next year.*

claw back /ˌklɔː 'bæk/ *verb* **1.** to take back money which has been allocated ○ *Income tax claws back 25% of pensions paid out by the government.* **2.** (*of the Inland Revenue*) to take back tax relief which was previously granted ○ *Of the £1m allocated to the development of the system, the government clawed back £100,000 in taxes.*

clawback /'klɔːbæk/ *noun* **1.** money taken back **2.** the loss of tax relief previously granted

clean hands /ˌkliːn 'hændz/ *plural noun* □ **the plaintiff or claimant must have clean hands** the claimant cannot claim successfully if his or her motives or actions are dishonest, or if his or her own obligations to the defendant have not been discharged

clear /klɪə/ *adjective* **1.** easily understood ○ *He made it clear that he wanted the manager to resign.* ○ *There was no clear evidence* or *clear proof that he was in the house at the time of the murder.* **2.** □ **to have a clear title to something** to have a right to something with no limitations or charges **3.** □ **three clear days** a period of time, calculated without including the first day when the period starts and the last day when it finishes, that includes three full days ○ *Allow three clear days for the cheque to be paid into your account.* ■ *verb* **1.** □ **to clear goods through the customs** to have all documentation passed by the customs so that goods can leave the country **2.** □ **to clear 10%, $5,000 on the deal** to make 10% *or* $5,000 clear profit □ **we cleared only our expenses** the sales revenue paid only for the costs and expenses without making any profit **3.** □ **to clear a cheque** to pass a cheque through the banking system, so that the money is transferred from the payer's account to another account ○ *The cheque took ten days to clear* or *the bank took ten days to clear the cheque.* **4.** □ **to clear someone of charges** to find that someone is not guilty of the charges against him or her ○ *He was cleared of all charges* or *he was cleared on all counts.* **5.** □ **to clear a debt** to pay all of a debt

clearance certificate /'klɪərəns sə ˌtɪfɪkət/ *noun* a document which shows that goods have been passed by customs

clearing /'klɪərɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** □ **clearing of goods through the customs** the passing of goods through customs **2.** □ **clearing of a debt** the payment of all of a debt

clearing bank /'klɪərɪŋ bæŋk/ *noun* a bank which clears cheques by transferring money from the payer's account to another account

clearing house /'klɪərɪŋ haʊs/ *noun* a central office where clearing banks exchange cheques

clear profit /ˌklɪə 'prɒfɪt/ *noun* the profit made after all expenses have been paid ○ *We made $6,000 clear profit on the sale.*

clear up /ˌklɪər 'ʌp/ *verb* to discover who has committed a crime and arrest them ○ *Half the crimes committed are never cleared up.*

COMMENT: Clear up can be divided into two categories: **primary clear up,** when a crime is solved by arresting the suspect, and **secondary clear up,** where a person charged with one crime then confesses to another which had not previously been solved.

clear-up rate /'klɪə ʌp ˌreɪt/ *noun* the number of crimes solved, as a percentage of all crimes committed

clemency /'klemənsi/ *noun* pardon or mercy ○ *As an act of clemency, the president granted an amnesty to all political prisoners.*

clerical /'klerɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* related to the type of work done in an office

clerical error /ˌklerɪk(ə)l 'erə/ *noun* a mistake made in an office

clerical staff /'klerɪk(ə)l stɑːf/ *noun* the staff of an office

clerical work /'klerɪk(ə)l wɜːk/ *noun* paperwork done in an office

clerical worker /'klerɪk(ə)l ˌwɜːkə/ *noun* somebody who works in an office

clerk /klɑːk/ *noun* somebody who works in an office ○ *accounts clerk* ○ *sales clerk* ○ *wages clerk*

clerk of works /ˌklɑːk əv 'wɜːks/ *noun* an official who superintends the construction of a building

clerkship /'klɜːkʃɪp/ *noun US* the time when a student lawyer is working in the office of a lawyer before being admitted to the bar (NOTE: The British term is **traineeship**.)

click-wrap agreement /'klɪk ræp ə ˌgriːmənt/ *noun* a contract entered into when purchasing an item on the Internet, where no paper documentation exists and the agreement to purchase is made by clicking on the appropriate button

client /'klaɪənt/ *noun* **1.** a person who pays for a service carried out by a professional person such as an accountant or a solicitor **2.** somebody who is represented by a lawyer ○ *The solicitor paid the fine on behalf of his client.*

clientele /ˌkliːɒn'tel/ *noun* all the clients of a business such as a shop, restaurant or hotel

close /kləʊz/ *adjective* □ **close to** very near, almost ○ *The company was close to bankruptcy.* ○ *We are close to solving the crime.* ■ *verb* □ **to close the accounts** to come to the end of an accounting period and make up the profit and loss account ◇ **to close an account 1.** to stop supplying a customer on credit **2.** to take all the money out of a bank account and stop the account

close company /ˌkləʊs 'kʌmp(ə)ni/**, close corporation** *US* /kləʊz ˌkɔːpə 'reɪʃ(ə)n/**, closed corporation** /kləʊzd ˌkɔːpə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a privately owned company where the public may own a small number of shares

close down /ˌkləʊz 'daʊn/ *verb* to shut a shop or factory for a long period or for ever ○ *The company is closing down its London office.*

closed session /ˌkləʊzd 'seʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a meeting which is not open to the public or to journalists ○ *The town council met in closed session to discuss staff problems in the Education Department.* ○ *The public gallery was cleared when the meeting went into closed session.*

close protection officer /ˌkləʊs prə'tekʃ(ə)n ˌɒfɪsə/ *noun* someone who is employed to protect a celebrity or public figure from attack

closing /'kləʊzɪŋ/ *adjective* coming at the end of something

closing speeches /ˌkləʊsɪŋ 'spiːtʃəz/ *plural noun* final speeches for and against a motion in a debate, or for prosecution and defence at the end of a trial

closing stock /ˌkləʊzɪŋ 'stɒk/ *noun* the value of stock at the end of an accounting period

closing time /'kləʊzɪŋ taɪm/ *noun* the time when a shop or office stops work

closure /'kləʊʒə/ *noun* **1.** the act of closing **2.** (*in the House of Commons*) the ending of a debate

COMMENT: When an MP wishes to end the debate on a motion, he says 'I move that the question be now put' and the Speaker immediately puts the motion to the vote.

closure motion /ˌkləʊʒə 'məʊʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a proposal to end a debate

CLS *abbreviation* Community Legal Service

clue /klu:/ *noun* something which helps someone solve a crime ○ *The police have searched the room for clues.* ○ *The police have several clues to the identity of the murdered.*

Co *abbreviation* company ○ *J. Smith & Co Ltd*

co- /kəʊ/ *prefix* working or acting together

c/o *abbreviation* care of

co-creditor /ˌkəʊ 'kredɪtə/ *noun* somebody who is a creditor of the same company as you are

c.o.d. *abbreviation US* cash on delivery

code /kəʊd/ *noun* **1.** an official set of laws or regulations. ◊ **Highway Code, penal code 2.** the set of laws of a country □ **the Louisiana Code** *US* the laws of the state of Louisiana **3.** a set of semi-official rules **4.** a system of signs, numbers or letters which mean something ○ *The spy sent his message in code.* ■ *verb* to write a message using secret signs ○ *We received coded instructions from our agent in New York.*

co-decision procedure /ˌkəʊ dɪ 'sɪʒ(ə)n prəˌsi:dʒə/ *noun* (*in the EU*) a procedure by which the Commission sends proposed legislation to both the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament for approval

co-defendant /ˌkəʊ dɪ'fendənt/ *noun* somebody who appears in a case with another defendant

Code Napoleon /ˌkəʊd nə'pəʊliən/ *noun* the civil laws of France, introduced by Napoleon

code of conduct /ˌkəʊd əv 'kɒndʌkt/ *noun* a set of rules of behaviour by which a group of people work

code of practice /ˌkəʊd əv 'præktɪs/ *noun* **1.** rules to be followed when applying a law ○ *the Code of Practice on Picketing has been issued by the Secretary of State* **2.** a set of rules drawn up by an association which the members must follow in their work

codicil /'kəʊdɪsɪl/ *noun* a document executed in the same way as a will, making additions or changes to an existing will

codification /kəʊdɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act of bringing all laws together into a formal legal code **2.** the act of bringing together all statutes and case law relating to a specific issue, to make a single Act of Parliament. ◊ **consolidation**

codify /'kəʊdɪfaɪ/ *verb* to put different laws together to form a code

coding /'kəʊdɪŋ/ *noun* the act of putting a code on something to identify or classify it ○ *the coding of invoices*

co-director /'kəʊ daɪˌrektə/ *noun* a person who is a director of the same company as another person

coercion /kəʊ'ɜ:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the use of force to make someone commit a crime or do some act

cohabit /kəʊ'hæbɪt/ *verb* (*of a man and a woman*) to live together as husband and wife

cohabitant /kəʊ'hæbɪtənt/ *noun* same as **cohabiter**

cohabitation /kəʊˌhæbɪ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the practice of living together as husband and wife whether legally married or not

cohabiter /kəʊ'hæbɪtə/**, cohabitee** /kəʊˌhæbɪ'ti:/ *noun* a person who lives with another as husband or wife but is not legally married

co-heir /kəʊ 'eə/ *noun* somebody who is an heir with others

co-insurance /ˌkəʊ ɪn'ʃʊərəns/ *noun* insurance where the risk is shared among several insurers

collaborative divorce /kəˌlæb(ə)rətɪv dɪ'vɔ:s/ *noun* a divorce of which the terms are agreed by both spouses and their solicitors before presenting the final agreement to a judge without a trial

collateral /kə'læt(ə)rəl/ *noun* security used to provide a guarantee for a loan ○ *collateral security* ■ *adjective* providing security for a loan

collateral contract /kə,læt(ə)rəl 'kɒntrækt/ *noun* a contract which induces a person to enter into a more important contract

collateral issue /kə,læt(ə)rəl 'ɪʃuː/ *noun* an issue which arises from a plea in a criminal court

collation /kə'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the comparison of a copy with the original to see if it is perfect

collect /kə'lekt/ *verb* **1.** to make someone pay money which is owed □ **to collect a debt** to go and make someone pay a debt **2.** to take goods away from a place ○ *We have to collect the stock from the warehouse.* ○ *Can you collect my letters from the typing pool?* □ **letters are collected twice a day** the post office employees take them from the letter box to the post office so that they can be sent off

collection /kə'lekʃən/ *noun* **1.** the activity of making someone pay money which is owed **2.** the act of fetching goods ○ *The stock is in the warehouse awaiting collection.* □ **to hand something in for collection** to leave something for someone to come and collect **3.** the taking of letters from a letter box or mail room to the post office to be sent off ○ *There are six collections a day from the letter box.*

collection charges /kə'lekʃən ,tʃɑːdʒɪz/ *plural noun* charges which have to be paid for collecting something

collections /kə'lekʃənz/ *plural noun* money which has been collected

collective /kə'lektɪv/ *adjective* working together

collective ownership /kə,lektɪv 'əʊnəʃɪp/ *noun* ownership of a business by the employees who work in it

collective responsibility /kə ,lektɪv rɪ,spɒnsɪ'bɪlɪti/ *noun* a doctrine that all members of a group are responsible together for the actions of that group

collector /kə'lektə/ *noun* somebody who makes people pay money which is owed ○ *collector of taxes* or *tax collector* ○ *debt collector*

collusion /kə'luːʒ(ə)n/ *noun* illicit co-operation between people in order to cheat another party or to defraud another party of a right ○ *He was suspected of collusion with the owner of the property.* □ **to act in collusion with** to co-operate with someone in a way that is not allowed in order to cheat or defraud another party ○ *They had acted in collusion with a former employee.*

collusive action /kə,luːsɪv 'ækʃən/ *noun* an action which is taken in collusion with another party

comity /'kɒmɪti/ *noun US* the custom by which courts in one state defer to the jurisdiction of courts in other states or to federal courts

comity of nations /,kɒmɪti əv 'neɪʃ(ə)nz/ *noun* the custom whereby the courts of one country acknowledge and apply the laws of another country

command /kə'mɑːnd/ *noun* an order □ **by Royal Command** by order of the Queen or King

commander /kə'mɑːndə/ *noun* a high rank in the Metropolitan Police force, equivalent to Assistant Chief Constable

commencement /kə'mensmənt/ *noun* the beginning □ **commencement of proceedings** the start of proceedings in a County Court □ **date of commencement** the date when an Act of Parliament takes effect

comment /'kɒment/ *noun* a remark giving a spoken or written opinion ○ *The judge made a comment on the evidence presented by the defence.* ○ *The newspaper has some short comments about the trial.*

commentary /'kɒmənt(ə)ri/ *noun* **1.** a textbook which comments on the law **2.** brief notes which comment on the main points of a judgment

Commercial Court /kə'mɜːʃ(ə)l kɔːt/ *noun* a court in the Queen's Bench Division which hears cases relating to business disputes

commercial law /kə,mɜːʃ(ə)l 'lɔː/ *noun* law regarding the conduct of businesses

commercial lawyer /kə,mɜːʃ(ə)l 'lɔːjə/ *noun US* someone who specialis-

es in company law or who advises companies on legal problems

commercial premises /kəˌmɜːʃ(ə)l ˈpremɪsɪz/ *plural noun* same as **business premises**

commission /kəˈmɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a group of people officially appointed to examine or be in charge of something ○ *The government has appointed a commission of inquiry to look into the problems of prison overcrowding.* ○ *He is the chairman of the government commission on football violence.* ◊ **Law Commission, Royal Commission 2.** a request to someone such as an artist or architect to do a piece of work for which they will be paid **3.** a payment, usually a percentage of turnover, made to an agent ○ *She has an agent's commission of 15% of sales.* **4.** an official position of being an officer in the army **5.** the act of committing a crime

commission agent /kəˈmɪʃ(ə)n ˌeɪdʒənt/ *noun* an agent who is paid by commission, not by fee

commissioner /kəˈmɪʃ(ə)nə/ *noun* a person who has an official commission

commissioner for oaths /kəˌmɪʃ(ə)nə fər ˈəʊðs/ *noun* a solicitor appointed by the Lord Chancellor to administer affidavits which may be used in court

commissioner of police /kəˌmɪʃ(ə)nər əv pəˈliːs/ *noun* the highest rank in a police force

Commissioners of Inland Revenue /kəˌmɪʃ(ə)nəz əv ˌɪnlənd ˈrevənjuː/ *noun* the Board of Inland Revenue

Commission for Racial Equality /kəˌmɪʃ(ə)n fə ˌreɪʃ(ə)l ɪˈkwɒlɪti/ *noun* in the UK, an official committee set up to deal with issues relating to equal treatment of ethnic groups. Abbreviation **CRE**

Commission of the European Community *noun* the main executive body of the EC, one of the four bodies which form the basis of the European Community, made up of members from each state

COMMENT: The Commission is formed of 20 members or Commissioners who are appointed by the governments of the Member States. The larger Member States (France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK) have two Commissioners each and the other smaller countries appoint one each. Each Commissioner is appointed for a five-year renewable term, and all the appointments end together, so the Commission is either changed or renewed every five years. Member States cannot dismiss the Commission, but can refuse to renew the term of appointment. The European Parliament can force the entire Commission to resign, but cannot dismiss an individual Commissioner. The European Court of Justice can force a Commissioner to retire on grounds of misconduct. The Commission is headed by the President of the European Commission, with two Vice-Presidents. The Commissioners are not supposed to be the representatives of their respective governments but must take the interests of the Community as a whole into account. Each commissioner has his or her own private office or Cabinet, headed by a Chef de Cabinet. The Commission has 23 departments called Directorates General, each headed by a Director-General, the Directorates General are subdivided into Directorates, and these are subdivided into Divisions. Each Directorate General is responsible to one of the Commissioners. The Commission represents all the Member States in negotiations with other parties, for example in trade negotiations with the USA. The Commission proposes laws for the European Community, and the Council of Ministers makes decisions accordingly. The Commission can make proposals regarding some legal matters and some matters concerning the internal security of Member States, but its main role is that of a watchdog, seeing that treaty obligations are carried out by Member States.

commit /kəˈmɪt/ *verb* **1.** to send someone to prison or to a court ○ *He was committed for trial in the Central Criminal Court.* ○ *The magistrates committed her for trial at the Crown Court.* **2.** to carry out a crime ○ *The gang committed six robberies before they were caught.* (NOTE: **committing – committed**)

commitment /kəˈmɪtmənt/ *noun* an order for sending someone to prison

commitments /kəˈmɪtmənts/ *plural noun* things which have to be done □ **fi-**

nancial commitments debts which have to be paid □ **to honour your commitments** to do what you are obliged to do

committal /kə'mɪt(ə)l/ *noun* the act of sending someone to a court or to prison □ **committal for trial** the act of sending someone to be tried in a higher court following committal proceedings in a magistrates' court □ **committal for sentence** the act of sending someone who has been convicted in a magistrates court to be sentenced in a higher court

committal order /kəˌmɪt(ə)l 'ɔːdə/ *noun* an order sending someone to prison for a contempt of court offence such as perjury

committal proceedings /kəˌmɪt(ə)l prə'siːdɪŋz/ *plural noun* the preliminary hearing of a case in a magistrates' court, to decide if it is serious enough to be tried before a jury in a higher court

committal warrant /kəˌmɪt(ə)l 'wɒrənt/ *noun* an order sending someone to serve a prison sentence

committee /kə'mɪti/ *noun* **1.** an official group of people who organise or plan for a larger group ○ *to be a member of a committee* or *to sit on a committee* ○ *He was elected to the Finance Committee* ○ *The new plans have to be approved by the committee members.* ○ *She is attending a committee meeting.* ○ *He is the chairman of the Planning Committee.* ○ *She is the secretary of the Housing Committee.* □ **to chair a committee** to be the chairman of a committee **2.** a section of a legislature which considers bills passed to it by the main chamber **3.** a person to whom something such as the charge of someone who is incapable of looking after himself or herself is officially given

Committee of Privileges /kəˌmɪti əv 'prɪvɪlɪdʒɪz/ *noun* a special committee of the House of Commons which examines cases of breach of privilege

Committee of the Parliamentary Commission /kəˌmɪti əv ðə ˌpɑːlə 'ment(ə)ri kəˌmɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a committee which examines reports by the Ombudsman

Committee of Ways and Means /kəˌmɪti əv ˌweɪz ən 'miːnz/ *noun* a committee of the whole House of Commons which examines a Supply Bill

Committee Stage /kə'mɪti steɪdʒ/ *noun* one of the stages in the discussion of a Bill, where each clause is examined in detail ○ *The Bill is at Committee Stage and will not become law for several months.*

common /'kɒmən/ *adjective* **1.** which happens very often ○ *Putting the headed paper into the photocopier upside down is a common mistake.* ○ *Being caught by the customs is very common these days.* **2.** referring to or belonging to several different people or to everyone **3.** □ **in common** together or jointly. ◊ **tenancy in common**

common ancestor /ˌkɒmən 'ænsestə/ *noun* a person from whom two or more people are descended

common assault /ˌkɒmən ə'sɔːlt/ *noun* the crime or tort of acting in such a way that another person is afraid he or she will be attacked and hurt

common carrier /ˌkɒmən 'kæriə/ *noun* a firm which carries goods or passengers, which cannot usually refuse to do so, and which can be used by anyone

common land /ˌkɒmən 'lænd/ *noun* an area of land to which the public has access for walking

common law /ˌkɒmən 'lɔː/ *noun* **1.** a law established on the basis of decisions by the courts, rather than by statute **2.** a general system of laws which formerly were the only laws existing in England, but which in some cases have been superseded by statute (NOTE: You say **at common law** when referring to something happening according to the principles of common law.)

common-law /'kɒmən lɔː/ *adjective* according to the old unwritten system of law □ **common-law marriage** situation where two people live together as husband and wife without being married □ **common-law spouse**, **wife** somebody who has lived or is living with another as husband or wife, although they have not been legally married

common ownership /ˌkɒmən 'əʊnəʃɪp/ *noun* ownership of a company

or of a property by a group of people who each own a part

common position /ˌkɒmən pə ˈzɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a position taken by the Council of the European Union on proposed legislation, which is then passed to the European Parliament for approval. It can be adopted or rejected by the Parliament, and the Parliament may propose changes to the proposed common position.

common pricing /ˌkɒmən ˈpraɪsɪŋ/ *noun* the illegal fixing of prices by several businesses so that they all charge the same price

Commons /ˈkɒmənz/ *plural noun* same as **House of Commons** ○ *The Commons voted against the Bill.* ○ *The majority of the Commons are in favour of law reform.*

common seal /ˌkɒmən ˈsiːl/ *noun* a metal stamp which every company must possess, used to stamp documents with the name of the company to show they have been approved officially ○ *to attach the company's seal to a document*

Common Serjeant /ˌkɒmən ˈsɑːdʒənt/ *noun* a senior barrister who sits as a judge in the City of London and acts as adviser to the City of London Corporation

commorientes /kəʊˌmɒriˈentiːz/ *plural noun* people who die at the same time, e.g. a husband and wife who both die in the same accident

COMMENT: In such cases, the law assumes that the younger person has died after the older one; this rule also applies to testators and beneficiaries who die at the same time.

commune /ˈkɒmjuːn/ *noun* a group of people who live and work together, and share their possessions

communicate /kəˈmjuːnɪˌkeɪt/ *verb* to pass information to someone ○ *The members of the jury must not communicate with the witnesses.*

communication /kəˌmjuːnɪ ˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the passing of information between different people □ **to enter into communication with someone** to start discussing something with someone, usually in writing ○ *We have entered into communication with the relevant government department.* **2.** an official message ○ *We have had a communication from the local tax inspector.*

communications /kəˌmjuːnɪ ˈkeɪʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* the ways people use to give information or express their thoughts and feelings to each other ○ *After the flood all communications with the outside world were broken.*

community /kəˈmjuːnɪti/ *noun* **1.** a group of people living or working in the same place □ **the local business community** the business people living and working in the area **2.** same as **European Community** □ **the Community finance ministers** the finance ministers of all the countries of the European Community

Community act /kəˈmjuːnɪti ækt/ *noun* a legal act of the European Union which has the force of law

community charge /kəˈmjuːnɪti tʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* a local tax levied on each eligible taxpayer. Also known as **poll tax**

community home /kəˈmjuːnɪti həʊm/ *noun* a house which belongs to a local authority, where children in care can live

Community Legal Service /kəˌmjuːnəti ˌliːg(ə)l ˈsɜːvɪs/ *noun* a system that consolidates previous features of the legal aid scheme, which it replaced in April 2000, in a re-structured form, outlining strict financial criteria for eligibility. It is administered by the Legal Services Commission who ensure that public funds are made available to those individuals in need of it most. Legal assistance is broken down into six differing levels of assistance: (1) legal help (2) help at court; (3) investigative help; (4) full representation (5) support funding; (6) specific directions.

Community legislation /kəˌmjuːnɪti ledʒɪˈsleɪʃ(ə)n/**, Community law** *noun* **1.** regulations or directives issued by the EC Council of Ministers or the EC Commission **2.** laws created by the European Community which are binding on Member States and their citizens

community policing /kəˌmjuːnɪti pəˈliːsɪŋ/ *noun* a way of policing a section of a town, where the members of the

local community and the local police force act together to prevent crime and disorder, with policemen on foot patrol rather than in patrol cars

community property /kəˌmjuːnɪti ˈprɒpəti/ *noun* in the USA, Canada, France and many other countries, a situation where a husband and wife jointly own any property which they acquire during the course of their marriage. Compare **separate property**

community service /kəˌmjuːnɪti ˈsɜːvɪs/ *noun* work that someone has to do in their spare time as punishment for some offences instead of going to prison

community service order /kəˌmjuːnɪti ˈsɜːvɪs ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a punishment where a convicted person is sentenced to do unpaid work in the local community. Abbreviation **CSO**

community support officer /kəˌmjuːnɪti səˈpɔːt ˌɒfɪsə/ *noun* ➧ **Police Community Support Officer**

commutation /ˌkɒmjʊˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the reduction of a punishment to one that is less severe

commute /kəˈmjuːt/ *verb* **1.** to travel to work from home each day ○ *He commutes from the country to his office in the centre of town.* **2.** to change a right into cash **3.** to reduce a harsh sentence to a lesser one ○ *The death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.*

compact /ˈkɒmpækt/ *noun* an agreement

Companies Act /ˈkʌmp(ə)niz ækt/ *noun* in the UK, an Act which states the legal limits within which a company may do business

Companies House /ˌkʌmpəniz ˈhaʊs/ *noun* in the UK, an office which keeps details of incorporated companies

companies' register /ˌkʌmpəniz ˈredʒɪstə/ *noun* a list of companies showing their directors and registered addresses, and statutory information kept at Companies House for public inspection

company /ˈkʌmp(ə)ni/ *noun* **1.** a group of people organised to buy, sell or provide a service **2.** a group of people organised to buy or sell or provide a service which has been legally incorporated, and so is a legal entity separate from its individual members □ **a tractor *or* aircraft *or* chocolate company** a company which makes tractors or aircraft or chocolate □ **a company of good standing** a very reputable company □ **to put a company into liquidation** to close a company by selling its assets to pay its creditors □ **to set up a company** to start a company legally **3.** □ **companies' register**, **register of companies** list of companies showing details of their directors and registered addresses **4.** an organisation in the City of London which does mainly charitable work and is derived from one of the former trade associations ○ *the Drapers' Company* ○ *the Grocers' Company*

company director /ˌkʌmp(ə)ni daɪ ˈrektə/ *noun* a person appointed by the shareholders to run a company

company flat /ˌkʌmp(ə)ni ˈflæt/ *noun* a flat owned by a company and used by members of staff from time to time (NOTE: The US term is **apartment**.)

company law /ˌkʌmp(ə)ni ˈlɔː/ *noun* law relating to the way companies may operate

company member /ˌkʌmp(ə)ni ˈmembə/ *noun* a shareholder in a company

company promoter /ˌkʌmp(ə)ni prəˈməʊtə/ *noun* a person who organises the setting up of a new company

company rules /ˈkʌmp(ə)ni ruːlz/, **company rules and regulations** /ˌkʌmp(ə)ni ruːlz ən ˌregjʊˈleɪʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* the general way of working in a company

company secretary /ˌkʌmp(ə)ni ˈsekrɪt(ə)ri/ *noun* somebody who is responsible for a company's legal and financial affairs

comparative law /kəmˈpærətɪv lɔː/ *noun* a study which compares the legal systems of different countries

compel /kəmˈpel/ *verb* to force someone to do something ○ *The Act compels all drivers to have adequate insurance.* (NOTE: **compelling – compelled**)

compellability /kəmˌpeləˈbɪlɪti/ *noun* the fact of being compellable

compellable /kəm'peləb(ə)l/ *adjective* able to be forced to do something ○ *a compellable witness*

compensate /'kɒmpənseɪt/ *verb* to pay for damage done ○ *to compensate a manager for loss of commission*

compensation /ˌkɒmpən'seɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** payment made by someone to cover the cost of damage or hardship which he or she has caused ○ *Unlimited compensation may be awarded in the Crown Court.* □ **compensation for damage** payment for damage done □ **compensation for loss of office** payment to a director who is asked to leave a company before his or her contract ends □ **compensation for loss of earnings** payment to someone who has stopped earning money or who is not able to earn money **2.** *US* a payment made to someone for work which has been done

compensation fund /ˌkɒmpən 'seɪʃ(ə)n fʌnd/ *noun* a special fund set up by the Law Society to compensate clients for loss suffered because of the actions of solicitors

compensation order /ˌkɒmpən 'seɪʃ(ə)n ˌɔːdə/ *noun* an order made by a criminal court which forces a criminal to pay compensation to his or her victim

compensation package /ˌkɒmpən 'seɪʃ(ə)n ˌpækɪdʒ/ *noun* the salary, pension and other benefits offered with a job

compensatory damages /ˌkɒmpənseɪt(ə)ri 'dæmɪdʒɪz/ *plural noun* damages which compensate for loss or harm suffered

compete /kəm'piːt/ *verb* □ **to compete with someone or with a company** to try to do better than another person or another company

competence /'kɒmpɪt(ə)ns/**, competency** /'kɒmpɪt(ə)nsi/ *noun* **1.** the ability to do something effectively **2.** the fact of being able to give evidence (NOTE: Anyone is able to give evidence, except the sovereign, persons who are mentally ill, and spouses when the other spouse is being prosecuted.) **3.** □ **the case falls within the competence of the court** the court is legally able to deal with the case

competent /'kɒmpɪt(ə)nt/ *adjective* **1.** able to do something ○ *She is a competent secretary* or *a competent manager.* **2.** efficient **3.** legally able to do something ○ *Most people are competent to give evidence.* □ **the court is not competent to deal with this case** the court is not legally able to deal with the case

competition /ˌkɒmpə'tɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of attempting to do better and be more successful than another company

competitor /kəm'petɪtə/ *noun* a person or company which competes ○ *Two German firms are our main competitors.* ○ *The contract of employment forbids members of staff from leaving to go to work for competitors.*

complainant /kəm'pleɪnənt/ *noun* somebody who makes a complaint or who starts proceedings against someone

complaint /kəm'pleɪnt/ *noun* **1.** a statement that you feel something is wrong ○ *When making a complaint, always quote the reference number.* ○ *She sent her letter of complaint to the managing director.* □ **to make** or **lodge a complaint against someone** to write and send an official complaint to someone's superior **2.** a document signed to start proceedings in a Magistrates' Court **3.** a statement of the case made by the claimant at the beginning of a civil action

complaints procedure /kəm 'pleɪnts prəˌsiːdʒə/ *noun* an agreed way of presenting complaints formally, e.g. from an employee to the management of a company

complete /kəm'pliːt/ *adjective* whole, with nothing missing ○ *The order is complete and ready for sending.* ○ *The order should be delivered only if it is complete.* ■ *verb* **1.** to finish ○ *The factory completed the order in two weeks.* ○ *How long will it take you to complete the job?* **2.** □ **to complete a conveyance** to convey a property to a purchaser, when the purchaser pays the purchase price and the vendor hands over the signed conveyance and the deeds of the property

completion /kəm'pliːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act of finishing something **2.** the last stage in the sale of a property when the solicitors for the two parties meet, when

the purchaser pays and the vendor passes the conveyance and the deeds to the purchaser

completion date /kəm'pliːʃ(ə)n deɪt/ *noun* the date when something will be finished

completion statement /kəm ˌpliːʃ(ə)n 'steɪtmənt/ *noun* a statement of account from a solicitor to a client showing all the costs of the sale or purchase of a property

compliance /kəm'plaɪəns/ *noun* willingness to do what is ordered ○ *The documents have been drawn up in compliance with the provisions of the Act.*

compliant /kəm'plaɪənt/ *adjective* agreeing with something □ **not compliant with** not in agreement with ○ *The settlement is not compliant with the earlier order of the court.*

compliments slip /'kɒmplɪmənts slɪp/ *noun* a piece of paper with the name of a company printed on it, sent with documents, gifts, etc., instead of a letter

comply /kəm'plaɪ/ *verb* □ **to comply with** to obey ○ *The company has complied with the court order.* ○ *She refused to comply with the injunction.*

composition /ˌkɒmpə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an agreement between a debtor and creditors to settle a debt immediately by repaying only part of it

compos mentis /ˌkɒmpɒs 'mentɪs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'of sound mind' or 'sane'

compound /kəm'paʊnd/ *verb* **1.** to agree with creditors to settle a debt by paying part of what is owed **2.** □ **to compound an offence** to agree (in return for payment) not to prosecute someone who has committed an offence

comprehensive /ˌkɒmprɪ'hensɪv/ *adjective* including everything

comprehensive insurance /ˌkɒmprɪhensɪv ɪn'ʃʊərəns/ *noun* insurance which covers you against a large number of possible risks

comprehensive policy /ˌkɒmprɪhensɪv 'pɒlɪsi/ *noun* an insurance policy which covers risks of any kind, with no exclusions

compromise /'kɒmprəmaɪz/ *noun* an agreement between two sides, where each side gives way a little in order to reach a settlement ○ *After some discussion a compromise solution was reached.* ■ *verb* **1.** to reach an agreement by giving way a little ○ *He asked £15 for it, I offered £7 and we compromised on £10.* **2.** to involve someone in something which makes his or her reputation less good ○ *The minister was compromised in the bribery case.*

comptroller /kən'trəʊlə/ *noun* the person in charge, especially referring to accounts

Comptroller and Auditor-General /kənˌtrəʊlə ən ˌɔːdɪtə 'dʒen(ə)rəl/ *noun* an official whose duty is to examine the accounts of ministries and government departments and who heads the National Audit Office

compulsory /kəm'pʌlsəri/ *adjective* being forced or ordered

compulsory liquidation /kəm ˌpʌlsəri ˌlɪkwɪ'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* liquidation which is ordered by a court

compulsory purchase /kəm ˌpʌlsəri 'pɜːtʃɪs/ *noun* the buying of a property by the local council or the government even if the owner does not want to sell

compulsory purchase order /kəm ˌpʌlsəri 'pɜːtʃɪs ˌɔːdə/ *noun* an official order from a local authority or from the government ordering an owner to sell his or her property

compulsory winding up order /kəmˌpʌlsəri ˌwaɪndɪŋ 'ʌp ˌɔːdə/ *noun* an order from a court saying that a company must be wound up (stop trading)

computer error /kəmˌpjuːtər 'erə/ *noun* a mistake made by a computer

computer fraud /kəm'pjuːtə frɔːd/ *noun* fraud committed by using data stored on computer

computerise /kəm'pjuːtəraɪz/, **computerize** *verb* to change from a manual system to one using computers ○ *The police criminal records have been completely computerised.*

computer language /kəm'pjuːtə ˌlæŋgwɪdʒ/ *noun* a system of signs, let-

ters and words used to instruct a computer

computer program /kəm'pjuːtə ˌprəʊgræm/ *noun* a set of instructions to a computer, telling it to do a particular piece of work

computer time /kəm'pjuːtə taɪm/ *noun* the time when a computer is being used (paid for at an hourly rate)

con /kɒn/ *noun* **1.** a trick done to try to get money from someone (*informal*) ○ *Trying to get us to pay him for ten hours' overtime was just a con.* **2.** same as **convict** (*slang*) **3.** same as **conviction** (*slang*) ■ *verb* to trick someone to try to get money (*informal*) ○ *They conned the bank into lending them £25,000 with no security.* ○ *He conned the finance company out of £100,000.* (NOTE: **conning – conned**. Note also you con someone **into** doing something.)

conceal /kən'siːl/ *verb* to hide ○ *She was accused of concealing information.* ○ *The accused had a gun concealed under his coat.*

concealment /kən'siːlmənt/ *noun* the act hiding something for criminal purposes □ **concealment of assets** the act of hiding assets so that creditors do not know they exist □ **concealment of birth** a notifiable offence of hiding the fact that a child has been born

concede /kən'siːd/ *verb* to admit that an opposing party is right ○ *Counsel conceded that his client owed the money.* ○ *The witness conceded under questioning that he had never been near the house.* □ **to concede defeat** to admit that you have lost

concern /kən'sɜːn/ *noun* a business or company □ **his business is a going concern** the company is working (and making a profit) □ **sold as a going concern** sold as an actively trading company ■ *verb* to deal with, to be connected with ○ *The court is not concerned with the value of the items stolen.* ○ *The report does not concern itself with the impartiality of the judge.* ○ *He has been asked to give evidence to the commission of inquiry concerning the breakdown of law and order.* ○ *The contract was drawn up with the agreement of all parties concerned.*

concert party /'kɒnsət ˌpɑːti/ *noun* an arrangement by which several people or companies act together in secret to take over a company

concession /kən'seʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the right to use someone else's property for business purposes **2.** the right to be the only seller of a product in a place ○ *She runs a jewellery concession in a department store.* **3.** an allowance **4.** an act of accepting defeat

concessionaire /kənˌseʃə'neə/ *noun* somebody who has the right to be the only seller of a product in a place

conciliation /kənˌsɪli'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the activity of bringing together the parties in a dispute so that the dispute can be settled

Conciliation Service /kənˌsɪli 'eɪʃ(ə)n ˌsɜːvɪs/ *noun* same as **Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service**

conclude /kən'kluːd/ *verb* **1.** to complete successfully ○ *to conclude an agreement with someone* **2.** to believe from evidence ○ *The police concluded that the thief had got into the building through the main entrance.*

conclusion /kən'kluːʒ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** an opinion which is reached after careful thought and examination of the evidence ○ *The police have come to the conclusion* or *have reached the conclusion that the bomb was set off by radio control.* **2.** □ **conclusion of fact** *US* a statement of a decision by a judge, based on facts □ **conclusion of law** a statement of a decision by a judge, based on rules of law **3.** the final completion ○ *the conclusion of the defence counsel's address* □ **in conclusion** finally, at the end ○ *In conclusion, the judge thanked the jury for their long and patient service.*

conclusive /kən'kluːsɪv/ *adjective* proving something ○ *The fingerprints on the gun were conclusive evidence that the accused was guilty.*

conclusively /kən'kluːsɪvli/ *adverb* in a way which proves a fact ○ *The evidence of the eye witness proved conclusively that the accused was in the town at the time the robbery was committed.*

concordat /kən'kɔːdæt/ *noun* agreement between the Roman Catholic Church and a government, which allows the Church specific rights and privileges

concur /kən'kɜː/ *verb* to agree ○ *Smith LJ dismissed the appeal, Jones and White LJJ concurring.*

concurrence /kən'kʌrəns/ *noun* agreement between different people ○ *In concurrence with the other judges, Smith LJ dismissed the appeal.*

concurrent /kən'kʌrənt/ *adjective* taking place at the same time. ◊ **consecutive**

concurrently /kən'kʌrəntli/ *adverb* taking place at the same time ○ *He was sentenced to two periods of two years in prison, the sentences to run concurrently.* ◊ **consecutively**

concurrent power /kən,kʌrənt 'paʊə/ *noun* a power which is held concurrently by a Member State and by the community, where the Member State can exercise the power up to the point at which the community exercises its rights. If the community acts, the power becomes exclusive to the community and the Member State can no longer act.

concurrent sentence /kən,kʌrənt 'sentəns/ *noun* a sentence which takes place at the same time as another ○ *He was given two concurrent jail sentences of six months.*

condemn /kən'dem/ *verb* **1.** to sentence someone to be punished ○ *The prisoners were condemned to death.* **2.** to say that a dwelling is not fit for people to live in

condemnation /,kɒndem'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act of sentencing of someone to a particular severe punishment **2.** the forfeit of a piece of property when it has been legally seized

condemned cell /kən'demd sel/ *noun US* a cell where a prisoner is kept who has been sentenced to death

condition /kən'dɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a term of a contract or duty which has to be carried out as part of a contract, or something which has to be agreed before a contract becomes valid □ **on condition that** provided that ○ *They were granted the lease on condition that they paid the legal costs.* **2.** a general state ○ *item sold in good condition* ○ *What was the condition of the car when it was sold?*

conditional /kən'dɪʃ(ə)n(ə)l/ *adjective* only able to happen if something else happens first □ **to give a conditional acceptance** to accept, provided that specific things happen or terms apply □ **the offer is conditional on the board's acceptance** the offer will only go through if the board accepts it □ **he made a conditional offer** he offered to buy, provided that specific terms applied

conditional discharge /kən ,dɪʃ(ə)n(ə)l dɪs'tʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* an act of allowing an offender to be set free without any immediate punishment on condition that he or she does not commit an offence during the following period

conditional fee /kən'dɪʃ(ə)n(ə)l fiː/ *noun* a fee which is paid only if the case is won. Also called **contingent fee, success fee**

COMMENT: Conditional fee agreements originally covered a limited range of cases, but are now applied to insolvency, defamation, civil liberties, intellectual property, employment and many other areas of action. These agreements allow clients to agree with their lawyers that the lawyers will not receive all or part of the usual fees or expenses if the case is lost; if the case is won, on the other hand, the client agrees to pay an extra fee in addition to the normal fee. Insurance policies are available to people contemplating legal action to cover the costs of the other party and the client's own fees if the case is lost.

conditional fee agreement /kən ,dɪʃ(ə)n(ə)l fiː əˈgriːmənt/ *noun* an agreement between a client and their representation that the legal fees will only be paid if the case is successful. Also known as **no win no fee**

conditionally /kən'dɪʃ(ə)n(ə)li/ *adverb* provided some things take place □ **to accept an offer conditionally** to accept provided some conditions are fulfilled

conditional will /kən'dɪʃ(ə)n(ə)l wɪl/ *noun* a will which takes effect when the person dies, but only if specific conditions apply

condition precedent /kən,dɪʃ(ə)n 'presɪd(ə)nt/ *noun* a condition which says that a right will not be granted until something is done

conditions of employment /kən ,dɪʃ(ə)nz əv ɪm'plɔɪmənt/ *plural noun* the terms of a contract of employment, which must be supplied in writing to an employee within two months of the start of employment

conditions of sale /kən,dɪʃ(ə)nz əv 'seɪl/ *plural noun* a list of the terms such as discounts and credit terms under which a sale takes place

condition subsequent /kən ,dɪʃ(ə)n 'sʌbsɪkwənt/ *noun* a condition which says that a contract will be modified or annulled if something is not done

condominium /,kɒndə'mɪniəm/ *noun US* a system of ownership, where a person owns an individual apartment in a building, together with a share of the land and common parts such as stairs and roof

condonation /,kɒndə'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the forgiving by one spouse of an act, especially adultery, of the other

condone /kən'dəʊn/ *verb* to fail to criticise bad or criminal behaviour ○ *The court cannot condone your treatment of your children.*

conducive /kən'djuːsɪv/ *adjective* likely to lead to or produce ○ *The threat of legal action is not conducive to an easy solution to the dispute.*

conduct /kən'dʌkt/ *noun* a way of behaving ○ *She was arrested for disorderly conduct in the street.* □ **conduct conducive to a breach of the peace** a way of behaving, using rude or threatening language in speech or writing, which seems likely to cause a breach of the peace ■ *verb* to carry out an activity ○ *to conduct discussions* or *negotiations* ○ *The chairman conducted the proceedings very efficiently.*

confederation /kən,fedə'reɪʃ(ə)n/, **confederacy** /kən'fed(ə)rəsi/ *noun* a group of organisations working together for common aims ○ *a loose confederation of local businesses*

confer /kən'fɜː/ *verb* **1.** to give power or responsibility to someone ○ *the discretionary powers conferred on the tribunal by statute* **2.** to discuss ○ *The Chief Constable conferred with the Superintendent in charge of the case.*

conference /'kɒnf(ə)rəns/ *noun* a meeting of a group of people to discuss something ○ *The Police Federation is holding its annual conference this week.* ○ *The Labour Party Annual Conference was held in Brighton this year.* ○ *He presented a motion to the conference.* ○ *The conference passed a motion in favour of unilateral nuclear disarmament.*

conference agenda /,kɒnf(ə)rəns ə 'dʒendə/ *noun* the business which is to be discussed at a conference

conference papers /,kɒnf(ə)rəns 'peɪpəs/ *plural noun* copies of lectures given at a conference, printed and published after the conference has ended

conference proceedings /'kɒnf(ə)rəns prə,siːdɪŋz/ *plural noun* written report of what has been discussed at a conference

conference table /,kɒnf(ə)rəns 'teɪb(ə)l/ *noun* a table around which people sit to negotiate

confess /kən'fes/ *verb* to admit that you have committed a crime ○ *After six hours' questioning by the police the accused man confessed.*

confession /kən'feʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a statement by a defendant that they have committed a crime ○ *The police sergeant asked him to sign his confession.* **2.** a document in which you admit that you have committed a crime ○ *The accused typed his own confession statement.* ○ *The confession was not admitted in court, because the accused claimed it had been extorted.*

confession and avoidance /kən ,feʃ(ə)n ən ə'vɔɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* an admission by a party of the allegations made against him or her, but at the same time bringing forward new pleadings which make the allegations void

confidence /'kɒnfɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* **1.** feeling sure about something or having trust in someone ○ *The sales teams do not have much confidence in their manager.* ○ *The board has total confidence in the managing director.* **2.** the ability to

trust someone with a secret □ **in confidence** in secret ○ *I will show you the report in confidence.*

confidence trick /'kɒnfɪd(ə)ns ˌtrɪk/, **confidence game** *US* /'kɒnfɪd(ə)ns geɪm/ *noun* a business deal where someone gains another person's confidence and then tricks him or her

confidence trickster /'kɒnfɪd(ə)ns ˌtrɪkstə/, **confidence man** *US* /'kɒnfɪd(ə)ns mæn/ *noun* somebody who carries out confidence tricks on people

confidence vote /'kɒnfɪd(ə)ns vəʊt/ *noun* a vote to show that a person or group is or is not trusted ○ *He proposed a vote of confidence in the government.* ○ *The chairman resigned after the motion of no confidence was passed at the AGM.*

confidential /ˌkɒnfɪ'denʃəl/ *adjective* secret between two persons or a small group of people ○ *the letter was marked 'Private and Confidential'*

confidential information /ˌkɒnfɪdenʃəl ˌɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* information which is secret, and which must not be passed on to other people ○ *He was accused of passing on confidential information.* ○ *The knowledge which an employee has of the working of the firm for which he works can be seen to be confidential information which he must not pass on to another firm.*

confidentiality /ˌkɒnfɪdenʃi'ælɪti/ *noun* an understanding between two or more parties that specified information remains secret

confidential report /ˌkɒnfɪdenʃəl rɪ 'pɔːt/ *noun* a secret document which must not be shown to other than a few named persons

confine /kən'faɪn/ *verb* to keep a criminal in a room or restricted area

confined to barracks /kənˌfaɪnd tə 'bærəks/ *adjective* (*of a soldier*) sentenced to stay in the barracks for a set period of time and not to go outside. Abbreviation **CB**

confinement /kən'faɪnmənt/ *noun* the situation of being kept in a place without being free to leave, especially as a punishment

confirm /kən'fɜːm/ *verb* to say that something is certain or is correct ○ *The Court of Appeal has confirmed the judge's decision.* ○ *His secretary phoned to confirm the hotel room* or *the ticket* or *the agreement* or *the booking.* □ **to confirm someone in a job** to say that someone is now permanently in a particular job

confiscate /'kɒnfɪskeɪt/ *verb* to take away private property into the possession of the state ○ *The court ordered the drugs to be confiscated.*

confiscation /ˌkɒnfɪs'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of confiscating

conflict *noun* /'kɒnflɪkt/ disagreement □ **to be in *or* come into conflict with** to disagree with someone over something ■ *verb* /kən'flɪkt/ not to agree ○ *The evidence of the wife conflicts with that of her husband.* ○ *The UK legislation conflicts with the directives of the EC.*

conflicting evidence /ˌkɒnflɪktɪŋ 'evɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* evidence from different witnesses which does not agree ○ *The jury has to decide who to believe among a mass of conflicting evidence.*

conflict of interest /ˌkɒnflɪkt əv 'ɪntrəst/, **conflict of interests** /ˌkɒnflɪkt əv 'ɪntrəsts/ *noun* a situation where a person may profit personally from decisions which he or she takes in their official capacity, or may not be able to act independently because of connections with other people or organisations

conflict of laws /ˌkɒnflɪkt əv 'lɔːz/ *noun* a section in a country's statutes which deals with disputes between that country's laws and those of another country

conform /kən'fɔːm/ *verb* to act in accordance with something ○ *The proposed Bill conforms to the recommendations of the Royal Commission.*

conformance /kən'fɔːməns/ *noun* behaviour in accordance with a rule ○ *in conformance with the directives of the Commission* ○ *He was criticised for nonconformance with the regulations.*

conformity /kən'fɔːmɪti/ *noun* □ **in conformity with** agreeing with ○ *He has acted in conformity with the regulations.*

Congress /'kɒŋgres/ *noun US* the elected federal legislative body in many countries, especially in the USA where it is formed of the House of Representatives and the Senate ○ *The President is counting on a Democrat majority in Congress.* ○ *He was first elected to Congress in 1988.* ○ *At a joint session of Congress, the President called for support for his plan.* (NOTE: often used without **the** except when referring to a particular legislature: *The US Congress met in emergency session*; *The Republicans had a majority in both houses of the 1974 Congress.*)

Congressional /kən'greʃ(ə)n(ə)l/ *adjective US* referring to Congress ○ *a Congressional subcommittee*

conjugal /'kɒndʒʊg(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to marriage

conjugal rights /ˌkɒndʒʊg(ə)l 'raɪts/ *plural noun* rights of a husband and wife in relation to each other

conman /'kɒnmæn/ *noun* same as **confidence trickster** (*informal*)

connected persons /kəˌnektɪd 'pɜːs(ə)ns/ *plural noun* people who are closely related to, or have a close business association with, a company director

connection /kə'nekʃən/ *noun* something which joins one person or thing to another ○ *Is there a connection between the loss of the documents and the death of the lawyer?* □ **in connection with** referring to ○ *the police want to interview the man in connection with burglaries committed last November*

connivance /kə'naɪvəns/ *noun* the act of not reporting a crime that you know is being or is about to be committed ○ *With the connivance of the customs officers, he managed to bring the goods into the country.*

connive /kə'naɪv/ *verb* □ **to connive at something** to shut one's eyes to wrongdoing, to know that a crime is being committed, but not to report it

consecutive /kən'sekjʊtɪv/ *adjective* following. ◊ **concurrent** □ **consecutive sentences** two or more sentences which follow one after the other

consecutively /kə'sekjʊtɪvli/ *adverb* following ○ *He was sentenced to two periods of two years in jail, the sentences to run consecutively.* ◊ **concurrently**

consensual /kən'sensjʊəl/ *adjective* happening by agreement

consensual acts /kənˌsensjʊəl 'ækts/ *plural noun* sexual acts which both parties agree should take place

consensus /kən'sensəs/ *noun* general agreement ○ *There was a consensus between all parties as to the next steps to be taken.* ○ *In the absence of a consensus, no decisions could be reached.*

consensus ad idem /kənˌsensəs æd 'aɪdem/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'agreement to this same thing': a real agreement to a contract by both parties

consent /kən'sent/ *noun* agreement or permission that something should happen ○ *He borrowed the car without the owner's consent.* □ **age of consent** sixteen years old, when a girl can agree to have sexual intercourse ■ *verb* to agree that something should be done ○ *The judge consented to the request of the prosecution counsel.*

consent judgment /kənˌsent 'dʒʌdʒmənt/ *noun* an agreement of the parties in a lawsuit to a judgment which then becomes the settlement

consent order /kənˌsent 'ɔːdə/ *noun* a court order that someone must not do something without the agreement of another party

consequential /ˌkɒnsɪ'kwenʃəl/ *adjective* following as a result of

consequential damages /ˌkɒnsɪkwenʃəl 'dæmɪdʒɪz/ *plural noun* damages suffered as a consequence of using a piece of equipment, software, etc., e.g. the stoppage of business activities because of computer or software failure

consequent on /'kɒnsɪkwənt ɒn/, **upon** /ʌ'pɒn/ *adjective* following as a result of ○ *The manufacturer is not liable for injuries consequent on the use of this apparatus.*

consider /kən'sɪdə/ *verb* **1.** to think seriously about something □ **to consider the terms of a contract** to examine and discuss if the terms are acceptable □ **the judge asked the jury to consider their verdict** he asked the jury to discuss the evidence they had heard and decide if the accused was guilty or not **2.** to believe ○ *He is considered to be one of the leading divorce lawyers.* ○ *The law on libel is considered too lenient.*

consideration /kənˌsɪdə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** serious thought ○ *We are giving consideration to moving the head office to Scotland.* □ **to take something into consideration** to think about something when deciding what to do ○ *Having taken the age of the accused into consideration, the court has decided to give him a suspended sentence.* □ **to ask for other offences to be taken into consideration** to confess to other offences after being accused or convicted of one offence, so that the sentence can cover all of them ○ *The accused admitted six other offences, and asked for them to be taken into consideration.* **2.** the price, in money, goods, or some other reward, paid by one person in exchange for another person promising to do something, which is an essential element in the formation of a contract □ **for a small consideration** for a small fee or payment

consign /kən'saɪn/ *verb* □ **to consign goods to someone** to send goods to someone for him to use or to sell for you

consignation /ˌkɒnsaɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of consigning

consignee /ˌkɒnsaɪ'niː/ *noun* somebody who receives goods from someone for his or her own use or to sell for the person who sends them

consignment /kən'saɪnmənt/ *noun* the sending of goods to someone who will hold them for you and sell them on your behalf □ **goods on consignment** goods kept for another company to be sold on their behalf for a commission

consignment note /kən'saɪnmənt nəʊt/ *noun* a note saying that goods have been sent

consignor /kən'saɪnə/ *noun* somebody who consigns goods to someone

COMMENT: The goods remain the property of the consignor until the consignee sells them.

consistent /kən'sɪstənt/ *adjective* agreeing with and not contradicting something ○ *The sentence is consistent with government policy on the treatment of young offenders.*

consolidate /kən'sɒlɪˌdeɪt/ *verb* **1.** to bring several Acts of Parliament together into one act ○ *The judge ordered the actions to be consolidated.* **2.** to hear several sets of proceedings together

Consolidated Fund /kənˌsɒlɪdeɪtɪd 'fʌnd/ *noun* a fund of money formed of all taxes and other government revenues. ◊ **Exchequer**

consolidated shipment /kənˌsɒlɪdeɪtɪd 'ʃɪpmənt/ *noun* goods from different companies grouped together into a single shipment

Consolidating Act /kən'sɒlɪdeɪtɪŋ ˌækt/ *noun* an Act of Parliament which brings together several previous Acts which relate to the same subject. ◊ **codification**

consolidation /kənˌsɒlɪ'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act of bringing together various Acts of Parliament which deal with one subject into one single Act **2.** a procedure whereby several sets of proceedings are heard together by the court

consortium /kən'sɔːtiəm/ *noun* **1.** a group of different companies which work together on one project **2.** the right of a husband and wife to the love and support of the other

conspiracy /kən'spɪrəsi/ *noun* a plan made with another person or other people to commit a crime or tort (NOTE: Conspiracy to commit a crime is itself a crime.)

conspire /kən'spaɪə/ *verb* to agree with another person or other people to commit a crime or tort

constitute /'kɒnstɪˌtjuːt/ *verb* to make or to form ○ *The documents constitute primary evidence.* ○ *This Act constitutes a major change in government policy.* ○ *Conduct tending to interfere with the course of justice constitutes contempt of court.*

constitution /ˌkɒnstɪ'tjuːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the set of laws, usually written

down, under which a country is ruled ○ *The freedom of the individual is guaranteed by the country's constitution.* ○ *The new president asked the assembly to draft a new constitution.* **2.** the written rules of a society, association or club ○ *Under the society's constitution, the chairman is elected for a two-year period.* ○ *Payments to officers of the association are not allowed by the constitution.*

COMMENT: Most countries have written constitutions, usually drafted by lawyers, which can be amended by an Act of the country's legislative body. The United States constitution was drawn up by Thomas Jefferson after the country became independent, and has numerous amendments (the first ten amendments being the Bill of Rights). Great Britain is unusual in that it has no written constitution, and relies on precedent and the body of laws passed over the years to act as a safeguard of the rights of the citizens and the legality of government.

constitutional /ˌkɒnstɪ'tjuːʃ(ə)nəl/ *adjective* **1.** referring to a country's constitution ○ *Censorship of the press is not constitutional.* **2.** according to a constitution ○ *The re-election of the chairman for a second term is not constitutional.* ◊ **unconstitutional**

constitutional law /ˌkɒnstɪ'tjuːʃ(ə)n(ə)l lɔː/ *noun* the set of laws relating to government and its function under which a country is ruled

constitutional lawyer /ˌkɒnstɪtjuːʃ(ə)n(ə)l 'lɔːjə/ *noun* a lawyer who specialises in drafting or interpreting constitutions

constitutional right /ˌkɒnstɪ'tjuːʃ(ə)n(ə)l raɪt/ *noun* a right which is guaranteed by the constitution of a country

construction /kən'strʌkʃən/ *noun* an interpretation of the meaning of words □ **to put a construction on words** to suggest a meaning for words which is not immediately obvious

construction company /kən'strʌkʃ(ə)n ˌkʌmp(ə)ni/ *noun* a company which specialises in building

constructive /kən'strʌktɪv/ *adjective* helping in the making of something ○ *She made some constructive suggestions for improving employer-employee relations.* ○ *We had a constructive proposal from a shipping company in Italy.*

constructive dismissal /kən ˌstrʌktɪv dɪs'mɪs(ə)l/ *noun* a situation when a worker leaves his or her job voluntarily, but because of unreasonable pressure from the management

constructive knowledge /kən ˌstrʌktɪv 'nɒlɪdʒ/ *noun* knowledge of a fact or matter which the law says a person has available to them, whether or not that person actually has it

constructive notice /kənˌstrʌktɪv 'nəʊtɪs/ *noun* knowledge which the law says a person has of something, whether or not the person actually has it, because the information is available if reasonable inquiry is made

constructive total loss /kən ˌstrʌktɪv 'təʊt(ə)l lɒs/ *noun* a loss where the item insured has been thrown away as it is likely to be irreplaceable

constructive trust /kən'strʌktɪv trʌst/ *noun* trust arising by reason of a person's behaviour

construe /kən'struː/ *verb* to interpret the meaning of words or of a document ○ *The court construed the words to mean that there was a contract between the parties.* ○ *Written opinion is not admissible as evidence for the purposes of construing a deed of settlement.*

consult /kən'sʌlt/ *verb* to ask an expert for advice ○ *He consulted his solicitor about the letter.*

consultancy /kən'sʌltənsi/ *noun* the act of giving specialist advice ○ *a consultancy firm* ○ *He offers a consultancy service.*

consultant /kən'sʌltənt/ *noun* a specialist who gives advice ○ *engineering consultant* ○ *management consultant* ○ *tax consultant*

consultation /ˌkɒnsəl'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a meeting with someone who can give specialist advice **2.** a meeting between a client and a professional adviser such as a solicitor or QC

consultation document /ˌkɒnsəl 'teɪʃ(ə)n ˌdɒkjʊmənt/ *noun* a paper which is issued by a government department to people who are asked to com-

ment and make suggestions for improvement

consultative /kən'sʌltətɪv/ *adjective* being asked to give advice ○ *the report of a consultative body* ○ *She is acting in a consultative capacity.*

consultative document /kən ˌsʌltətɪv 'dɒkjʊmənt/ *noun* same as **consultation document**

consulting /kən'sʌltɪŋ/ *adjective* person who gives specialist advice ○ *consulting engineer*

consumer /kən'sjuːmə/ *noun* a person or company which buys and uses goods and services ○ *Gas consumers are protesting at the increase in prices.* ○ *The factory is a heavy consumer of water.*

consumer council /kənˌsjuːmə 'kaʊns(ə)l/ *noun* a group representing the interests of consumers

consumer credit /kənˌsjuːmə 'kredɪt/ *noun* the provision of loans by finance companies to help people buy goods

consumer goods /kənˌsjuːmə 'gʊdz/ *plural noun* goods bought by the general public and not by businesses

consumer legislation /kənˌsjuːmə ˌledʒɪ'sleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* law which gives rights to people who buy goods or who pay for services

consumer protection /kənˌsjuːmə prə'tekʃən/ *noun* the activity of protecting consumers from unfair or illegal business practices

consummation /ˌkɒnsə'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of having sexual intercourse for the first time after the marriage ceremony

contact /'kɒntækt/ *noun* **1.** a person you know who can give you help such as finding work or advice and information ○ *He has many contacts in the city.* ○ *Who is your contact in the Ministry?* **2.** the act of getting in touch with someone □ **I have lost contact with them** I do not communicate with them any longer □ **he put me in contact with a good lawyer** he told me how to get in touch with a good lawyer

contact order /'kɒntækt ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a court order allowing a parent to see a child where the child is in the care of someone else, such as the other parent in the case of a divorced couple. Former name **access order**

contemnor /kən'temnə/ *noun* somebody who commits a contempt of court

contempt /kən'tempt/ *noun* the act of showing a lack of respect to a court or Parliament □ **to be in contempt** to have shown disrespect to a court, especially by disobeying a court order □ **to purge one's contempt** to apologise, to do something to show that you are sorry for the lack of respect shown

contempt of court /kənˌtempt əv 'kɔːt/ *noun* the act of showing a lack of respect to a court, by bad behaviour in court or by refusing to carry out a court order ○ *At common law, conduct tending to interfere with the course of justice in particular legal proceedings constitutes criminal contempt.*

content /'kɒntent/ *noun* the subject matter of a letter or other document □ **the content of the letter** the real meaning of the letter

contentious /kən'tenʃəs/ *adjective, noun* (*of legal business*) where there is a dispute

contents /'kɒntents/ *plural noun* things contained in something ○ *The contents of the bottle poured out onto the floor.* ○ *The customs officials inspected the contents of the box.* □ **the contents of the envelope** the things in the envelope

contest /kən'test/ *noun* a situation in which people or groups try to gain an advantage ■ *verb* **1.** to argue that a decision or a ruling is wrong ○ *I wish to contest the statement made by the witness.* **2.** to compete to be successful in something such as an election

contested takeover /kənˌtestɪd 'teɪkəʊvə/ *noun* a takeover where the directors of the company being bought do not recommend the bid and try to fight it

context /'kɒntekst/ *noun* **1.** other words which surround a word or phrase ○ *The words can only be understood in the context of the phrase in which they occur.* □ **the words were quoted out of context** the words were quoted without the rest of the surrounding text, so as to

give them a different meaning **2.** the general situation in which something happens ○ *The action of the police has to be seen in the context of the riots against the government.*

contingency /kən'tɪndʒənsi/ *noun* a possible state of emergency when decisions will have to be taken quickly

contingency fund /kən'tɪndʒənsi fʌnd/ *noun* money set aside in case it is needed urgently

contingency plan /kən'tɪndʒənsi plæn/ *noun* a plan which will be put into action if something happens which is expected to happen

contingent expenses /kən ˌtɪndʒənt ɪk'spensɪz/ *plural noun* expenses which will be incurred only if something happens

contingent fee /kən'tɪndʒənt fiː/ *noun US* a fee paid to a legal practitioner which is a proportion of the damages recovered in the case

contingent interest /kənˌtɪndʒənt 'ɪntrəst/ *noun US* an interest in property which may or may not exist in the future

contingent policy /kənˌtɪndʒənt 'pɒlɪsi/ *noun* a policy which pays out only if something happens, e.g. if the person named in the policy dies before the person who is to benefit from it

contingent remainder /kən ˌtɪndʒənt rɪ'meɪndə/ *noun* a remainder which is contingent upon something happening in the future

contra /'kɒntrə/ *prefix* against, opposite, or contrasting

contract /kən'trækt/ *noun* **1.** a legal agreement between two or more parties ○ *to draw up a contract* ○ *to draft a contract* ○ *to sign a contract* □ **the contract is binding on both parties** both parties signing the contract must do what is agreed □ **by private contract** by private legal agreement □ **under contract** bound by the terms of a contract ○ *The firm is under contract to deliver the goods by November.* □ **to void a contract** to make a contract invalid **2.** □ **contract for services** an agreement for the supply of a service or goods ○ *contract for the supply of spare parts* ○ *to enter into a contract to supply spare parts* ○ *to sign a contract for #10,000 worth of spare parts* □ **to put work out to contract** to decide that work should be done by another company on a contract, rather than employing members of staff to do it □ **to award a contract to a company, to place a contract with a company** to decide that a company shall have the contract to do work for you □ **to tender for a contract** to put forward an estimate of cost for work to be carried out under contract □ **the company is in breach of contract** the company has failed to do what was agreed in the contract **3.** an agreement to kill someone for a payment (*slang*) □ **there is a contract out for him** someone has offered money for him to be killed ■ *verb* to agree to do something on the basis of a contract ○ *to contract to supply spare parts* or *to contract for the supply of spare parts* □ **the supply of spare parts was contracted out to Smith Ltd** Smith Ltd was given the contract for supplying spare parts □ **to contract out of an agreement** to withdraw from an agreement with written permission of the other party

COMMENT: A contract is an agreement between two or more parties to create legal obligations between them. Some contracts are made 'under seal', i.e. they are signed and sealed by the parties; most contracts are made orally or in writing. The essential elements of a contract are: (a) that an offer made by one party should be accepted by the other; (b) consideration; (c) the intention to create legal relations. The terms of a contract may be express or implied. A breach of contract by one party entitles the other party to sue for damages or in some cases to seek specific performance.

contracting party /kənˌtræktɪŋ 'pɑːti/ *noun* the person or company that signs a contract

contract killer /ˌkɒntrækt 'kɪlə/ *noun* somebody who will kill someone if paid to do so

contract law /'kɒntrækt lɔː/ *noun* law relating to agreements

contract note /'kɒntrækt nəʊt/ *noun* a note showing that shares have been bought or sold but not yet paid for

contract of employment /ˌkɒntrækt əv ɪm'plɔɪmənt/**, contract**

of service *noun* a contract between an employer and an employee showing all the conditions of work

contractor /kən'træktə/ *noun* a person who enters into a contract, especially a person or company that does work according to a written agreement

contractual /kən'trækʧʊəl/ *adjective* according to a contract □ **to fulfil your contractual obligations** to do what you have agreed to do in a contract □ **he is under no contractual obligation to buy** he has signed no agreement to buy

contractual liability /kənˌtrækʧuəl ˌlaɪə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* a legal responsibility for something as stated in a contract

contractually /kən'trækʧuəli/ *adverb* according to a contract ○ *The company is contractually bound to pay his expenses.*

contract under seal /ˌkɒntrækt 'ʌndə siːl/ *noun* a contract which has been signed and legally approved with the seal of the company or the person entering into it. Compare **simple contract**

contract work /'kɒntrækt wɜːk/ *noun* work done according to a written agreement

contradict /ˌkɒntrə'dɪkt/ *verb* **1.** to say exactly the opposite of something ○ *The witness contradicted himself several times.* **2.** to disagree in various details with another statement, story or report, so that both cannot be true ○ *The statement contradicts the report in the newspapers.*

contradiction /ˌkɒntrə'dɪkʃən/ *noun* a statement which contradicts ○ *The witness' evidence was a mass of contradictions.* ○ *There is a contradiction between the Minister's statement in the House of Commons and the reports published in the newspapers.*

contradictory /ˌkɒntrə'dɪkt(ə)ri/ *adjective* not agreeing ○ *a mass of contradictory evidence*

contra entry /'kɒntrə ˌentri/ *noun* an entry made in the opposite side of an account to make an earlier entry worthless, i.e. a debit against a credit

contra proferentem /ˌkɒntrə ˌprɒfə 'rentem/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'against the one making the point': rule that an ambiguity in a document is construed against the party who drafted it

contrary /'kɒntrəri/ *noun* the opposite ○ *Information suggests that the contrary is true.* □ **on the contrary** used for emphasising an opposite statement ○ *Counsel was not annoyed with the witness – on the contrary, she praised him.* □ **quite the contrary** used for emphasising an opposite statement ○ *I don't dislike his manner of working -quite the contrary – I think it's very effective.* □ **to the contrary** suggesting that the opposite is true or should happen ○ *You should continue to do it this way, unless you receive instructions to the contrary.*

contravene /ˌkɒntrə'viːn/ *verb* to do something that is not allowed by rules or regulations ○ *The workshop has contravened the employment regulations.* ○ *The fire department can close a restaurant if it contravenes the safety regulations.*

contravention /ˌkɒntrə'venʃən/ *noun* the act of breaking a regulation □ **in contravention of** contravening, going against ○ *The restaurant is in contravention of the safety regulations.* ○ *The management of the cinema locked the fire exits in contravention of the fire regulations.*

contribute /kən'trɪbjuːt/ *verb* □ **to contribute to** to help something ○ *The public response to the request for information contributed to the capture of the gang.*

contribution /ˌkɒntrɪ'bjuːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** money paid to add to a sum **2.** (*in civil cases*) the right of someone to get money from a third party to cover the amount which he or she personally has to pay

contributor of capital /kən ˌtrɪbjʊtər əv 'kæpɪt(ə)l/ *noun* somebody who contributes capital to a company

contributory /kən'trɪbjʊt(ə)ri/ *noun* a shareholder who is liable in respect of partly paid shares to a company being wound up

contributory causes /kən ˌtrɪbjʊt(ə)ri 'kɔːzɪz/ *plural noun* causes which help something to take place ○ *The report listed bad community rela-*

tions as one of the contributory causes to the riot.

contributory factor /kən ˌtrɪbjʊt(ə)ri 'fæktə/ *noun* something which contributes to a result

contributory negligence /kən ˌtrɪbjʊt(ə)ri 'neglɪdʒəns/ *noun* negligence partly caused by the claimant and partly by the defendant, resulting in harm done to the claimant

con trick /'kɒn trɪk/ *noun* same as **confidence trick** (*informal*)

control /kən'trəʊl/ *noun* the fact of keeping someone or something in order or being able to direct them ○ *The company is under the control of three shareholders.* ○ *The family lost control of its business.* □ **to gain control of a business** to buy more than 50% of the shares so that you can direct the business □ **to lose control of a business** to find that you have less than 50% of the shares in a company, and so are not longer able to direct it ■ *verb* **1.** to have the power to decide what should happen to someone or something **2.** to make sure that something is restricted or kept at the correct level ○ *The government is fighting to control inflation* or *to control the rise in the cost of living.*

controlled /kən'trəʊld/ *adjective* **1.** limited by law ○ *controlled chemicals* **2.** carried out in a way that will give accurate results and information ○ *controlled trials* **3.** able to show no emotion when you are angry or upset ○ *There were tears in her eyes as she replied but her voice was controlled.*

controlled drug /kənˌtrəʊld 'drʌg/, **controlled substance** /kənˌtrəʊld 'sʌbstəns/ *noun* a drug or other substance which is restricted by law and of which possession may be an offence

controlling /kən'trəʊlɪŋ/ *adjective* □ **to have a controlling interest in a company** to own more than 50% of the shares so that you can direct how the company is run

control systems /kən'trəʊl ˌsɪstəmz/ *plural noun* systems used to check that a computer system is working correctly

control test /kən'trəʊl test/ *noun* a test to decide if someone is an employee or is self-employed, used for purposes of tax assessment

convene /kən'viːn/ *verb* to ask people to come together ○ *to convene a meeting of shareholders*

convenience /kən'viːniəns/ *noun* □ **at your earliest convenience** as soon as you find it possible □ **ship sailing under a flag of convenience** ship flying the flag of a country which may have no ships of its own but allows ships of other countries to be registered in its ports

convenor /kən'viːnə/ *noun* a person who calls other people together for a meeting

convention /kən'venʃən/ *noun* **1.** a way in which something is usually done, accepted as the normal way to do it ○ *It is the convention for American lawyers to designate themselves 'Esquire'.* **2.** a meeting or series of meetings held to discuss and decide important matters **3.** an international treaty ○ *the Geneva Convention on Human Rights* ○ *The three countries are all signatories of the convention.*

conversion /kən'vɜːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the tort of dealing with a person's property in a way which is not consistent with that person's rights over it

conversion of funds /kənˌvɜːʃ(ə)n əv 'fʌndz/ *noun* the use of money which does not belong to you for a purpose for which it is not supposed to be used

convert /kən'vɜːt/ *verb* **1.** to change property into another form such as cash **2.** □ **to convert funds to one's own use** to use someone else's money for yourself

convey /kən'veɪ/ *verb* **1.** to carry goods from one place to another **2.** □ **to convey a property to a purchaser** to pass the ownership of the property to the purchaser

conveyance /kən'veɪəns/ *noun* a legal document which transfers the ownership of land from the seller to the buyer

conveyancer /kən'veɪənsə/ *noun* somebody who draws up a conveyance

conveyancing /kən'veɪənsɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** drawing up the document which legally transfers a property from a seller to a

buyer **2.** law and procedure relating to the purchase and sale of property

convict /kən'vɪkt/ *noun* somebody who is kept in prison as a punishment for a crime ■ *verb* □ **to convict someone of a crime** to find that someone is guilty of a crime ○ *He was convicted of manslaughter and sent to prison.*

convicted criminal /kən,vɪktɪd 'krɪmɪn(ə)l/ *noun* a criminal who has been found guilty and sentenced

conviction /kən'vɪkʃən/ *noun* **1.** the feeling of being sure that something is true ○ *It is his conviction that the claimant has brought the case maliciously.* **2.** a decision that a person accused of a crime is guilty ○ *He has had ten convictions for burglary.* ◊ **spent conviction**. Compare **sentence**

convict settlement /kən,vɪkt 'set(ə)lmənt/ *noun US* a prison camp where convicts are sent

cooling off period /,ku:lɪŋ 'ɒf ,pɪərɪəd/**, cooling time** *US* /'ku:lɪŋ taɪm/ *noun* **1.** during an industrial dispute, a period when negotiations have to be carried on and no action can be taken by either side **2.** a period when a person is allowed to think about something which he or she has agreed to buy on hire-purchase and possibly return the item

co-operation procedure /kəʊ ,ɒpə 'reɪʃ(ə)n prə,si:dʒə/ *noun* (*in the EU*) a procedure introduced by the Single European Act which gives the European Parliament a more important role than before in considering European legislation. ◊ **common position**

COMMENT: Originally the co-operation procedure was restricted to measures concerning the internal market (free movement of people within the union, no discrimination on grounds of nationality, harmonisation of health and safety in the workplace, etc.). It is now also used in connection with European transport policy, training, environmental issues, etc. The co-operation procedure implies that at the end of a discussion period the Council will adopt a **common position** which must then be approved by the European Parliament.

co-operative /kəʊ'ɒp(ə)rətɪv/ *noun* a business run by a group of workers who are the owners and who share the profits ○ *industrial co-operative* ○ *to set up a workers' co-operative*

co-opt /,kəʊ 'ɒpt/ *verb* □ **to co-opt someone onto a committee** to ask someone to join a committee without being elected

co-owner /,kəʊ 'əʊnə/ *noun* somebody who owns something jointly with another person or persons ○ *The two sisters are co-owners of the property.*

co-ownership /,kəʊ 'əʊnəʃɪp/ *noun* **1.** an arrangement where two or more persons own a property **2.** an arrangement where partners or employees have shares in a company

cop /kɒp/ *noun* **1.** a policeman (*informal*) **2.** an arrest (*informal*) □ **it's a fair cop** you have caught me ■ *verb* **1.** to catch or arrest someone (*slang*) **2.** to get or to receive something (*slang*) □ **to cop a plea** to plead guilty to a lesser charge and so hope the court will give a shorter sentence to save the time of a full trial

co-partner /kəʊ 'pɑ:tnə/ *noun* somebody who is a partner in a business with another person

co-partnership /kəʊ 'pɑ:tnəʃɪp/ *noun* an arrangement where partners or employees have shares in the company

copper /'kɒpə/ *noun* a policeman (*informal*)

copper-bottomed /,kɒpə 'bɒtəmɪd/ *adjective* (*of a guarantee or promise*) able to be completely trusted

co-property /kəʊ 'prɒpəti/ *noun* ownership of property by two or more people together

co-proprietor /,kəʊ prə'praɪətə/ *noun* somebody who owns a property with another person or several other people

copy /'kɒpɪ/ *noun* **1.** a document which looks the same as another **2.** anything which copies information in a document, by whatever means, including electronic copies, recordings, etc. ○ *an illegal copy* **3.** any document ■ *verb* **1.** to make a second item which is like the first ○ *He copied the company report at night and took it home.* **2.** to make something which is similar to something else ○ *She simply copied the design from another fashion*

designer. ○ *He is successful because he copies good ideas from other businesses.*

copyright /'kɒpiraɪt/ *noun* an author's legal right to publish his or her own work and not to have it copied, which lasts 50 years after the author's death under the Berne Convention, or a similar right of an artist, film maker or musician □ **work which is out of copyright** work by a writer, etc., who has been dead for fifty years, and which anyone can publish □ **work still in copyright** work by a living writer, or by a writer who has not been dead for fifty years ■ *verb* to confirm the copyright of a written work by printing a copyright notice and publishing the work ■ *adjective* covered by the laws of copyright ○ *It is illegal to take copies of a copyright work.*

COMMENT: Copyright exists in original written works, in works of art and works of music; it covers films, broadcasts, recordings, etc.; it also covers the layout of books, newspapers and magazines. Copyright only exists if the work is created by a person who is qualified to hold a copyright, and is published in a country which is qualified to hold a copyright. There is no copyright in ideas, items of news, historical events, items of information, or in titles of artistic works. When a copyright is established, the owner of the copyright can copy his work himself, sell copies of it to the public, perform his work or exhibit it in public, broadcast his work, or adapt it in some way. No other person has the right to do any of these things. Copyright lasts for 50 years after the author's death according to the Berne Convention, and for 25 years according to the Universal Copyright Convention. In the USA, copyright is for 50 years after the death of an author for books published after January 1st, 1978. For books published before that date, the original copyright was for 28 years after the death of the author, and this can be extended for a further 28 year period up to a maximum of 75 years. In 1995, the European Union adopted a copyright term of 70 years after the death of the author. The copyright holder has the right to refuse or to grant permission to copy copyright material, though under the Paris agreement of 1971, the original publishers (representing the author or copyright holder) must, under certain circumstances, grant licences to reprint copyright material. The copyright notice has to include the symbol ©, the name of the copyright holder and the date of the copyright (which is usually the date of first publication). The notice must be printed in the book and usually appears on the reverse of the title page. A copyright notice is also printed on other forms of printed material such as posters.

Copyright Act /'kɒpi,raɪt ækt/ *noun* an Act of Parliament such as the Copyright Acts 1911, 1956 or 1988 making copyright legal and controlling the copying of copyright material

copyright deposit /,kɒpiraɪt dɪ 'pɒzɪt/ *noun* the act of placing a copy of a published work in a copyright library, usually the main national library, which is part of the formal process of copyrighting printed material

copyrighted /'kɒpiraɪtɪd/ *adjective* protected by a valid copyright

copyright holder /,kɒpiraɪt 'həʊldə/ *noun* somebody who owns the copyright in a work

copyright law /'kɒpiraɪt lɔː/ *noun* law dealing with the protection of copyright

copyright notice /,kɒpiraɪt 'nəʊtɪs/ *noun* a note in a book showing who owns the copyright and the date of ownership

cordon /'kɔːd(ə)n/ *noun* □ **a police cordon** barriers and policemen put round an area to prevent anyone getting near it ■ *verb* □ **to cordon off** to put barriers and policemen round (an area) so that no one can get near it ○ *The street was cordoned off after the bomb was discovered.*

co-respondent /,kəʊ rɪ'spɒndənt/ *noun* a party to divorce proceedings who has committed adultery with another person (NOTE: Do not confuse with **correspondent**.)

coroner /'kɒrənə/ *noun* a public official, either a doctor or a lawyer, who investigates sudden violent deaths

COMMENT: Coroners investigate deaths which are violent or unexpected, deaths which may be murder or manslaughter, deaths of prisoners and deaths involving the police.

coroner's court /'kɒrənəz kɔːt/ *noun* a court presided over by a coroner

coroner's inquest /ˌkɒrənəz 'ɪnkwest/ *noun* an inquest carried out by a coroner into a death, or into a case of treasure trove

corporal punishment /ˌkɔːp(ə)rəl 'pʌnɪʃmənt/ *noun* the physical punishment of someone by beating him or her

corporate /'kɔːp(ə)rət/ *adjective* referring to a company

corporate killing /ˌkɔːp(ə)rət 'kɪlɪŋ/ *noun* a proposed criminal offence under which companies and similar organisations would be held responsible for any deaths occurring as a result of the company's negligence

corporate manslaughter /ˌkɔːp(ə)rət 'mænslɔːtə/ *noun* the killing of someone by a limited company, as in a fatal train accident where the railway company is held responsible

corporate name /ˌkɔːp(ə)rət 'neɪm/ *noun* the name of a large corporation

corporate personality /ˌkɔːp(ə)rət ˌpɜːsə'nælɪti/ *noun* the legal status of a company, so that it can be treated as a person

corporate planning /ˌkɔːp(ə)rət 'plænɪŋ/ *noun* the activity of planning the future work of a whole company

corporate profits /ˌkɔːp(ə)rət 'prɒfɪts/ *noun* the profits of a corporation

corporation /ˌkɔːpə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a legal body such as a limited company or town council which has been incorporated **2.** *US* a company which is incorporated in the United States **3.** any large company

corporeal hereditaments /kɔːˌpɔːriəl herɪ'dɪtəmənts/ *plural noun* rights of property which physically exists, e.g. houses or furniture

corpse /kɔːps/ *noun* the body of a dead person (NOTE: The US term is **cadaver**.)

corpus /'kɔːpəs/ *noun* a body of laws. ◊ **habeas corpus** (NOTE: The plural is **corpora**.)

corpus delicti /ˌkɔːpəs dɪ'lɪktaɪ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'the body of the crime': the real proof that a crime has been committed

corpus legis /ˌkɔːpəs 'ledʒɪs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'body of laws': books containing Roman civil law

correctional institution /kəˌrekʃn(ə)l ˌɪnstɪ'tjuːʃ(ə)n/ *noun US* a prison

corrective /kə'rektɪv/ *adjective* treating someone in such a way that he or she improves their behaviour or attitude ○ *He was sent to the detention centre for corrective training.*

correspondent /ˌkɒrɪ'spɒndənt/ *noun* **1.** somebody who writes letters **2.** a journalist who writes articles for a newspaper on specialist subjects ○ *The Times' legal correspondent* □ **a court correspondent** journalist who reports on the activities of a king or queen and the royal family □ **a lobby correspondent** journalist from a newspaper who is part of the lobby which gets private briefings from government ministers

corrigendum /ˌkɒrɪ'gendəm/ *noun* an item which has been corrected (NOTE: The plural is **corrigenda**.)

corroborate /kə'rɒbəreɪt/ *verb* to prove evidence which has already been given ○ *The witness corroborated the accused's alibi, saying that at the time of the murder she had seen him in Brighton.*

corroboration /kəˌrɒbə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* evidence which confirms and supports other evidence ○ *The witness was unable to provide corroboration of what he had told the police.*

corroborative /kə'rɒbərətɪv/ *adjective* adding support to something such as a statement or evidence ○ *The letter provides corroborative evidence, showing that the accused did know that the victim lived alone.*

corrupt /kə'rʌpt/ *adjective* willing to take bribes ■ *verb* □ **to corrupt someone's morals** to make someone behave in a way which goes against the normal standard of behaviour

corruption /kə'rʌpʃən/ *noun* dishonest behaviour such as paying or accepting money or giving a favour to make sure that something is done ○ *The government is keen to stamp out corruption in the police force.* ○ *Bribery and corruption are difficult to control.*

corruptly /kə'rʌptli/ *adverb* in a corrupt way ○ *He corruptly offered the officer money to get the charges dropped.*

Cosa Nostra /ˌkəʊzə 'nɒstrə/ *noun* same as **Mafia**

cosponsor /'kəʊˌspɒnsə/ *noun* somebody who sponsors something with someone else ○ *the three cosponsors of the bill*

cost /kɒst/ *noun* **1.** the amount of money which has to be paid for something ○ *Computer costs are falling each year.* ○ *We cannot afford the cost of two telephone lines.* □ **to cover costs** to produce enough money in sales to pay for the costs of production **2.** □ **to pay costs** to pay the costs of a court case ■ *verb* **1.** to have a price ○ *How much does the machine cost?* ○ *Rent of the room will cost £50 a day.* **2.** □ **to cost something** to calculate how much money will be needed to make or do something

cost of living /ˌkɒst əv 'lɪvɪŋ/ *noun* money which has to be paid for essential items such as food, accommodation or heating

cost-of-living allowance /ˌkɒst əv 'lɪvɪŋ əˌlaʊəns/ *noun* an addition to a standard salary to cover increases in the cost of living

cost-of-living increase /ˌkɒst əv 'lɪvɪŋ ˌɪnkriːs/ *noun* an increase in salary to allow it to keep up with the increased cost of living

cost-of-living index /ˌkɒst əv 'lɪvɪŋ ˌɪndeks/ *noun* a way of measuring the cost of living which is shown as a percentage increase on the figure for the previous year

costs /kɒsts/ *plural noun* the expenses involved in a court case, including the fees, expenses and charges levied by the court itself, which can be awarded by the judge to the party which wins, so that the losing side pays the expenses of both sides ○ *The judge awarded costs to the defendant.* ○ *Costs of the case will be borne by the prosecution.* ○ *The court awarded the claimant £2,000 in damages, with costs.*

costs draftsman /'kɒsts ˌdrɑːftsmən/ *noun* someone who draws up a bill of costs for assessment by the costs judge

costs judge /'kɒsts dʒʌdʒ/ *noun* an official of the Supreme Court who assesses the costs of a court action (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has in some cases replaced **Taxing Master**.)

costs order /'kɒsts ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a court order requiring someone to pay costs

coterminous /kəʊ'tɜːmɪnəs/ *adjective* referring to two things which end at the same time ○ *The leases are coterminous.*

council /'kaʊnsəl/ *noun* **1.** an official group chosen to run something or to advise on a problem **2.** same as **Privy Council**

Council of Ministers /ˌkaʊns(ə)l əv 'mɪnɪstəz/ *noun* ➧ **Council of the European Union**

Council of the European Union /ˌkaʊns(ə)l əv ðə ˌjʊərəpiːən 'juːnjən/ *noun* one of the four bodies which form the basis of the European Community (NOTE: not to be confused with the **European Council**. Formerly the Council of the European Union was called the **Council of Ministers** and it is still sometimes called this.)

COMMENT: The Council does not have fixed members, but the Member States are each represented by the relevant government minister. The Council is headed by a President, and the Presidency rotates among the Member States in alphabetical order, each serving for a six-month period. In practice this means that each Member State can control the agenda of the Council, and therefore that of the European Union, for a period of six months, and can try to get as many of its proposals put into legislation as it can during that period. When meeting to discuss general matters the Council is formed of the foreign ministers of the Member States, but when it discusses specialised problems it is formed of the relevant government ministers: so when discussing agriculture, for example, it is formed of the Agriculture Ministers of the Member States.

counsel /'kaʊnsəl/ *noun* a barrister or barristers acting for one of the parties in

a legal action ○ *defence counsel* ○ *prosecution counsel* ○ *The claimant appeared in court with his solicitor and two counsel.*

counsellor /'kaʊnsələ/ *noun* **1.** a trained person who gives advice or help ○ *They went to see a marriage guidance counsellor.* **2.** *US* a legal practitioner who advises a person in a case

counsel's advice /ˌkaʊnsəlz əd 'vaɪs/ *noun* a barrister's written advice about a case ○ *We sent the documents to the police on the advice of the solicitor* or *we took the solicitor's advice and sent the documents to the police.*

counsel's opinion /ˌkaʊnsəlz ə 'pɪnjən/ *noun* same as **counsel's advice**

count /kaʊnt/ *noun* a separate charge against an accused person read out in court in the indictment ○ *He was found guilty on all four counts.*

counter /'kaʊntə/ *noun* a long flat surface in a shop for displaying and selling goods □ **over the counter** legally □ **goods sold over the counter** retail sales of goods in shops □ **under the counter** illegally □ **under-the-counter sales** black market sales ■ *adjective, adverb* opposite, or with an opposite effect

counter- /kaʊntə/ *prefix* opposing

counterclaim /'kaʊntəklaɪm/ *noun* **1.** in a court, a claim by a defendant against whom a claimant is bringing a claim. The counterclaim is included in the same proceedings and statement of case as the original claim. Also called **Part 20 claim 2.** a claim for damages made in reply to a previous claim ○ *Jones claimed £25,000 in damages against Smith, and Smith entered a counterclaim of £50,000 for loss of office.* ■ *verb* to put in a counterclaim ○ *Jones claimed £25,000 in damages and Smith counterclaimed £50,000 for loss of office.*

counterfeit /'kaʊntəfɪt/ *adjective* (*especially of money or objects of value*) false or imitation ○ *He was charged with passing counterfeit notes in shops.* ○ *She was selling counterfeit Rolex watches.* ■ *verb* to make imitation money or other objects of value

counterfeiting /'kaʊntəˌfɪtɪŋ/ *noun* the crime of making imitation money or other objects of value

counter-intelligence /ˌkaʊntə ɪn 'telɪdʒəns/ *noun* an organisation of secret agents whose job is to work against the secret agents of another country ○ *The offices were bugged by counter-intelligence agents.*

countermand /ˌkaʊntə'mɑːnd/ *verb* □ **to countermand an order** to say that an order must not be carried out

counteroffer /'kaʊntərˌɒfə/ *noun* an offer made in reply to another offer

counterpart /'kaʊntəpɑːt/ *noun* **1.** a copy of a lease **2.** somebody who has a similar job in another company □ **John is my counterpart in Smith's** he has a similar post at Smith's as I have here

counter-promise /ˌkaʊntə 'prɒmɪs/ *noun* a promise made in reply to a promise

countersign /'kaʊntəsaɪn/ *verb* to sign a document which has already been signed by someone else ○ *The payment has to be countersigned by the mortgagor.*

counter to /'kaʊntə tə/ *noun* against, opposite ○ *The decision of the court runs counter to the advice of the clerk to the justices.*

country of origin /ˌkʌntri əv 'ɒrɪdʒɪn/ *noun* a country where someone was born or from where someone has come, or where goods were produced ○ *There is a space on the form for 'country of origin'.*

County Court /ˌkaʊnti 'kɔːt/ *noun* one of the types of court in England and Wales which hears local civil cases

COMMENT: There are about 270 County Courts in England and Wales. County Courts are presided over by either district judges or circuit judges. They deal mainly with claims regarding money, but also deal with family matters, bankruptcies and claims concerning land. A district judge will hear most civil cases up to a value of £50,000, and circuit judge will deal with more serious cases.

County Court Rules /ˌkaʊnti kɔːt 'ruːlz/ *noun* a book of procedural rules for County Courts. Abbreviation **CCR**

coup /kuː/**, coup d'état** /ˈkuː deɪˈtæ/ *noun* a rapid change of government which removes one government by force and replaces it by another ○ *After the coup, groups of students attacked the police stations.*

COMMENT: A coup is usually carried out by a small number of people, who already have some power (such as army officers), while a revolution is a general uprising of a large number of ordinary people. A coup changes the members of a government, but a revolution changes the whole social system.

court /kɔːt/ *noun* **1.** a place where a trial is held □ **to take someone to court** to start legal proceedings against someone □ **in court** present during a trial ○ *The defendant was in court for three hours.* □ **in open court** in a courtroom with members of the public present □ **a settlement was reached out of court, the two parties reached an out-of-court settlement** the dispute was settled between the two parties privately without continuing the court case **2.** □ **Criminal Court, Civil Court** a court where criminal or civil cases are heard **3.** the judges or magistrates in a court ○ *The court will retire for thirty minutes.*

COMMENT: In England and Wales the main courts are: **the Magistrates' Court:** trying minor criminal offences such as petty crime; adoption; affiliation; maintenance and domestic violence; licensing; **the County Court:** most civil actions up to a value of £50,000; **the High Court:** most civil claims where the value exceeds £50,000; **the Crown Court:** major crime; **the Court of Appeal:** appeals from lower courts, such as the High Court; **the House of Lords:** the highest court of appeal in the country; **the Privy Council:** appeals on certain matters from England and Wales, and appeals from certain Commonwealth countries; **the European Court of Justice:** appeals where EU legislation is involved. Other courts include **employment tribunals:** employment disputes; **courts-martial:** military matters.

court action /ˈkɔːt ˌækʃən/ *noun* a civil case in a law court where a person files a claim against another person (NOTE: In general, **action** has now been replaced by **claim**.)

court case /ˈkɔːt keɪs/ *noun* same as **court action**

courthouse /ˈkɔːthaʊs/ *noun especially US* a building in which trials take place ○ *There was police cordon round the courthouse.*

court-martial /ˌkɔːt ˈmɑːʃ(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** a court which tries someone serving in the armed forces for offences against military discipline ○ *He was found guilty by the court-martial and sentenced to imprisonment.* **2.** the trial of someone serving in the armed forces by the armed forces authorities ○ *The court-martial was held in the army headquarters.* (NOTE: The plural is **courts-martial**.) ■ *verb* to try someone who is serving in the armed forces (NOTE: **court-martialled**)

Court of Appeal /kɔːt əv əˈpiːl/**, Court of Appeals** /kɔːt əv/ *noun* a civil or criminal court to which a person may go to ask for an award or a sentence to be changed. Also called **Appeal Court**

COMMENT: In the majority of cases in English law, decisions of lower courts and of the High Court can be appealed to the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal is divided into the Civil Division and the Criminal Division. The Civil Division hears appeals from the County Court and the High Court; the Criminal Division hears appeals from the Crown Court. From the Court of Appeal, appeal lies to the House of Lords. When the remedies available under English law are exhausted, it is in some cases possible to appeal to the European Court of Justice. For many countries, especially Commonwealth countries, appeals from the highest court of these countries may be heard by the Privy Council.

court officer /ˌkɔːt ˈɒfɪsə/ *noun* a member of the staff of a court, especially a County Court

court of first instance /ˌkɔːt əv fɜːst ˈɪnstəns/ *noun* a court where a case is heard first

COMMENT: The CFI hears cases concerning the staff of the EU, cases concerning the coal and steel industries and cases regarding competition. The court is formed of 15 judges, and its judgements can be appealed to the ECJ.

Court of First Instance /ˌkɔːt əv fɜːst ˈɪnstəns/ *noun* a court set up under

the Single European Act, formed of 15 judges, whose judgments can be appealed to the European Court of Justice. Abbreviation **CFI**

COMMENT: The Court of First Instance initially heard only cases concerning the staff of the EU, cases concerning the coal and steel industries and cases regarding competition. As a result of provisions of the Treaty of European Union, the CFI now has all of the European Court's jurisdiction except for Article 234 references and cases involving infringement proceedings against Member States.

Court of Justice of the European Communities *noun* ➧ **European Court of Justice**

court of last resort /ˌkɔːt əv lɑːst rɪ 'zɔːt/ *noun US* the highest court from which no appeals can be made

court of law /ˌkɔːt əv 'lɔː/ *noun* same as **court** ○ *The law courts are in the centre of the town.* ○ *She works in the law courts as an usher.*

Court of Protection /ˌkɔːt əv prə 'tekʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a court appointed to protect the interests of people who are incapable of dealing with their own affairs, such as patients who are mentally ill

Court of Session /ˌkɔːt əv 'seʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the highest civil court in Scotland

court order /ˌkɔːt 'ɔːdə/ *noun* a legal order made by a court, telling someone to do or not to do something ○ *The court made an order for maintenance* or *made a maintenance order.* ○ *He refused to obey the court order and was sent to prison for contempt.*

court or tribunal /ˌkɔːt ɔː traɪ 'bjuːn(ə)l/ *noun* any body which has official status and which has the power to give binding rulings on legal rights and obligation, although it may not have the actual title of 'court' (NOTE: The Deputy High Bailiff's Court in the Isle of Man and the Dutch Appeals Committee for General Medicine have each been held to be a 'court or tribunal' according to European Union law.)

courtroom /'kɔːtruːm/ *noun* a room where a judge presides over a trial

covenant /'kʌvənənt/ *noun* an agreement or undertaking to do something or not to do something, contained in a deed or contract ○ *He signed a covenant against underletting the premises.* ■ *verb* to agree to pay a sum of money each year by contract ○ *to covenant to pay £10 per annum to a charity*

COMMENT: Examples of restrictive covenants could be a clause in a contract of employment which prevents the employee from going to work for a competitor, or a clause in a contract for the sale of a property which prevents the purchaser from altering the building. There is a tax advantage to the recipient of covenanted money; a charity pays no tax, so it can reclaim tax at the standard rate on the money covenanted to it.

covenant marriage /'kʌvənənt ˌmærɪdʒ/ *noun* in the USA, a form of marriage contract with stricter than usual conditions for couples wishing to marry or get divorced, including counselling before marriage and a two-year separation before a divorce

covenant to repair /ˌkʌvənənt tə rɪ 'peə/ *noun* an agreement by a landlord or tenant to keep a rented property in good repair

cover /'kʌvə/ *noun* **1.** □ **to operate without adequate cover** without being protected by insurance □ **to ask for additional cover** to ask the insurance company to increase the amount for which you are insured **2.** □ **to send something under separate cover** in a separate envelope □ **to send a document under plain cover** in an ordinary envelope with no company name printed on it ■ *verb* **1.** to include and deal with something ○ *The agreement covers all agencies.* ○ *The newspapers have covered the murder trial.* ○ *The fraud case has been covered by the consumer protection legislation.* **2.** □ **to cover a risk** to be protected by insurance against a risk □ **to be fully covered** to have insurance against all risks **3.** *US* to purchase goods from another supplier to replace those which have not been delivered according to contract **4.** to have enough money to pay □ **the damage was covered by the insurance** the insurance company paid for the damage □ **to cover a position** to have enough money to pay for a forward purchase **5.** to ask for security against a loan which you are making **6.** to earn enough money to pay for costs,

expenses, etc. ○ *We do not make enough sales to cover the expense of running the shop.* ○ *We hope to reach the point soon when sales will cover all costs.*

coverage /'kʌv(ə)rɪdʒ/ *noun* **1.** ➧ **press coverage 2.** *US* protection guaranteed by insurance ○ *Do you have coverage against fire damage?*

covering letter /ˌkʌvərɪŋ 'letə/**, covering note** *noun* a letter or note sent with documents to say why you are sending them

cover note /'kʌvə nəʊt/ *noun* a letter from an insurance company giving basic details of an insurance policy and confirming that the policy exists

covert /'kəʊvət, 'kʌvət/ *adjective* secret

covert action /ˌkəʊvət 'ækʃən/ *noun* an action which is carried out secretly

coverture /'kʌvətʃʊə/ *noun* (*of a woman*) a state of being married

CPR *abbreviation* Civil Procedure Rules

CPS *abbreviation* Crown Prosecution Service

cracksman /'kræksmən/ *noun* a criminal who specialises in breaking safes (*slang*)

credere /'kreɪdəri/ ➧ **del credere agent**

credit /'kredɪt/ *verb* to note money received in an account

credit account /'kredɪt əˌkaʊnt/ *noun* an account which a customer has with a shop which allows them to buy goods and pay for them later

credit agency /'kredɪt ˌeɪdʒənsi/ *noun* a company which reports on the ability of customers to pay their debts and shows whether they should be allowed credit

credit balance /'kredɪt ˌbæləns/ *noun* the balance on an account showing that more money is owed or has been paid by someone than is due or has been received by them

credit bank /'kredɪt bæŋk/ *noun* a bank which lends money

credit card /'kredɪt kɑːd/ *noun* a plastic card which allows the owner to buy goods without paying for them immediately

credit card holder /'kredɪt kɑːd ˌhəʊldə/ *noun* somebody who has a credit card

credit facilities /'kredɪt fəˌsɪlɪtiz/ *plural noun* arrangement with a bank or supplier to have credit so as to buy goods

credit limit /'kredɪt ˌlɪmɪt/ *noun* a fixed amount of money which is the most a client can owe

credit note /'kredɪt nəʊt/ *noun* a note showing that money is owed to a customer

creditor /'kredɪtə/ *noun* somebody who is owed money. ◊ **secured creditor, unsecured creditor**

creditors' meeting /'kredɪtəz ˌmiːtɪŋ/ *noun* a meeting of all persons to whom a company in receivership owes money

credit rating /'kredɪt ˌreɪtɪŋ/ *noun* the amount which a credit agency feels a customer should be allowed to borrow

credit transfer /'kredɪt ˌtrænsfɜː/ *noun* the movement of money from one account to another

crime /kraɪm/ *noun* **1.** an act which is against the law and which is punishable by law ○ *There has been a 50% increase in crimes of violence.* **2.** illegal acts in general ○ *crime is on the increase* ○ *There has been an increase in violent crime.*

COMMENT: A crime is an illegal act which may result in prosecution and punishment by the state if the accused is convicted. Generally, in order to be convicted of a crime, the accused must be shown to have committed an unlawful act (**actus reus**) with a criminal state of mind (**mens rea**). The main types of crime are: **1. crimes against the person**: murder; manslaughter; assault, battery, wounding; grievous bodily harm; abduction; **2. crimes against property**: theft; robbery; burglary; obtaining property or services or pecuniary advantage by deception; blackmail; handling stolen goods; going equipped to steal; criminal damage; possessing something with intent to damage or destroy property; forgery; **3. sexual offences**: rape; buggery; bigamy; indecency; **4. political offences**: treason; terrorism; sedition; breach of the Official Secrets

Act; **5. offences against justice**: assisting an offender; conspiracy; perjury; contempt of court; perverting the course of justice; **6. public order offences**: obstruction of the police; unlawful assembly; obscenity; possessing weapons; misuse of drugs; breach of the peace; **7. road traffic offences**: careless or reckless driving; drunken driving; driving without a licence or insurance. Most minor crime is tried before the Magistrates' Courts; more serious crime is tried at the Crown Court which has greater powers to sentence offenders. Most crimes are prosecuted by the police or the Crown Prosecutors, though private prosecutions brought by individuals are possible.

crime rate /'kraɪm reɪt/ *noun* the number of crimes committed in a specific period, shown as a percentage of the total population

crime scene /'kraɪm siːn/ *noun* the place where a crime has been committed

crime scene tape /'kraɪm siːn ˌteɪp/ *noun* tape that is used to cordon off an area and warn people of a crime scene (NOTE: The British term is incident tape.)

crime wave /'kraɪm weɪv/ *noun* a sudden increase in crime

criminal /'krɪmɪn(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** illegal ○ *Misappropriation of funds is a criminal act.* **2.** referring to crime □ **the criminal population** all people who have committed crimes ■ *noun* a person who has committed a crime or who often commits crimes ○ *The police have contacted known criminals to get leads on the gangland murder.* □ **a hardened criminal** a person who has committed many crimes

criminal action /ˌkrɪmɪn(ə)l 'ækʃən/ *noun* a case brought usually by the state against someone who is charged with a crime

criminal bankruptcy /ˌkrɪmɪn(ə)l 'bæŋkrʌptsi/ *noun* bankruptcy of a criminal in the Crown Court as a result of crimes of which he or she has been convicted

criminal bankruptcy order /ˌkrɪmɪn(ə)l 'bæŋkrʌptsi ˌɔːdə/ *noun* an order made against someone who has been convicted in the Crown Court of an offence which has resulted in damage above a specific sum to other identified parties

criminal court /'krɪmɪn(ə)l kɔːt/ *noun* a court such as a Crown Court which deals with criminal cases

criminal damage /ˌkrɪmɪn(ə)l 'dæmɪdʒ/ *noun* the notifiable offence of causing serious damage

Criminal Defence Service /ˌkrɪmɪn(ə)l dɪ'fens ˌsɜːvɪs/ *noun* the British government service which provides legal advice and assistance in each community to people with very little money who are suspected of criminal offences or are facing criminal proceedings. Abbreviation **CDS**

COMMENT: The service replaces part of the Legal Aid scheme (the Community Legal Service deals with civil and family cases).

Criminal Injuries Compensation Board /ˌkrɪmɪn(ə)l ˌɪndʒərɪz ˌkɒmpən'seɪʃ(ə)n ˌbɔːd/ *noun* a committee which administers the awarding of compensation to victims of crime

Criminal Investigation department /ˌkrɪmɪn(ə)l ɪnˌvestɪ'geɪʃ(ə)n dɪ ˌpɑːtmənt/ *noun* a section of the British police which investigates serious crimes. Abbreviation **CID**

criminal law /ˌkrɪmɪn(ə)l 'lɔː/ *noun* law relating to acts committed against the laws of the land and which are punishable by the state

criminal libel /ˌkrɪmɪn(ə)l 'laɪb(ə)l/ *noun* a serious libel which might cause a breach of the peace

criminal negligence /ˌkrɪmɪn(ə)l 'neglɪdʒəns/ *noun* the offence of acting recklessly with the result that harm is done to other people

criminal offence /ˌkrɪmɪn(ə)l ə 'fens/ *noun* an action which is against the law

criminal record /ˌkrɪmɪn(ə)l 'rekɔːd/ *noun* a note of previous crimes for which someone has been convicted ○ *The accused had no criminal record.* ○ *He has a criminal record going back to the time when he was still at school.*

criminal responsibility /ˌkrɪmɪn(ə)l rɪˌspɒnsɪ'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the fact of being responsible for a crime that has been committed (NOTE: The age of

criminal responsibility is ten years. Children under ten years old cannot be charged with a crime.)

criminology /ˌkrɪmɪ'nɒlədʒi/ *noun* the academic study of crime

criterion /kraɪ'tɪəriən/ *noun* the standard by which something can be judged ○ *Using the criterion of the ratio of cases solved to cases reported, the police force is becoming more efficient.* (NOTE: The plural is **criteria**.)

criticise /'krɪtɪsaɪz/**, criticize** *verb* to say that someone or something is bad or wrong ○ *The procedures were severely criticised as being discriminatory.* (NOTE: **criticised – criticising**)

criticism /'krɪtɪsɪz(ə)m/ *noun* **1.** a comment ○ *If you have any constructive criticisms to make, I shall be glad to hear them.* **2.** an unfavourable comment or series of comments ○ *There was a lot of criticism of the proposed changes.* ○ *My detailed criticisms relate to section 3 of the report.*

crook /krʊk/ *noun* a person who has committed a crime, especially a crime involving deceit (*slang*)

cross /krɒs/ *verb* □ **to cross a cheque** to write two lines across a cheque to show that it has to be paid into a bank

crossed cheque /ˌkrɒst 'tʃek/ *noun* a cheque with two lines across it showing that it can only be deposited at a bank and not exchanged for cash

cross-examination /ˌkrɒs ɪgzæmɪ 'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the questioning of a witness called by the opposing side in a case. Opposite **evidence in chief** (NOTE: The opposite is **evidence in chief**.)

cross-examine /ˌkrɒs ɪg'zæmɪn/ *verb* to question witnesses called by the other side in a case, in the hope that you can discredit or weaken their evidence

cross holdings /'krɒs ˌhəʊldɪŋz/ *plural noun* situation where two companies own shares in each other in order to stop each from being taken over ○ *The two companies have protected themselves from takeover by a system of cross holdings.*

cross off /ˌkrɒs 'ɒf/ *verb* to remove something from a list ○ *He crossed my name off his list.* ○ *You can cross him off our mailing list.*

cross out /ˌkrɒs 'aʊt/ *verb* to put a line through something which has been written ○ *She crossed out £250 and put in £500.*

Crown /kraʊn/ *noun* □ **the Crown** the King or Queen as representing the State ○ *Mr Smith is appearing for the Crown.* ○ *The Crown submitted that the maximum sentence should be applied in this case.* ○ *The Crown case* or *the case for the Crown was that the defendants were guilty of espionage.*

Crown copyright /ˌkraʊn 'kɒpiraɪt/ *noun* copyright in government publications

Crown Court /ˌkraʊn 'kɔːt/ *noun* a court, above the level of the magistrates' courts, which is based on the six circuits in England and Wales and which hears criminal cases

COMMENT: A Crown Court is formed of a circuit judge and jury, and hears major criminal cases.

Crown Lands /ˌkraʊn 'lɑːndz/ *plural noun* land or property belonging to the King or Queen

Crown privilege /ˌkraʊn 'prɪvɪlɪdʒ/ *noun* the right of the Crown or the government not to have to produce documents to a court by reason of the interest of the state

Crown Prosecution Service /ˌkraʊn ˌprɒsɪ'kjuːʃ(ə)n ˌsɜːvɪs/ *noun* a government department, headed by the Director of Public Prosecutions, which is responsible for the conduct of all criminal cases instituted by the police in England and Wales, except for those prosecuted by the Serious Fraud Office. Abbreviation **CPS**

Crown prosecutor /ˌkraʊn 'prɒsɪkjuːtə/ *noun* an official of the Crown Prosecution Service who is responsible for prosecuting criminals in one of 13 areas in England Wales

cruelty /'kruːəlti/ *noun* **1.** behaviour which causes pain or injury to a person or animal **2.** cruel behaviour towards a spouse

cryptographic /ˌkrɪptə'græfɪk/ *adjective* referring to cryptography

cryptography /ˌkrɪp'tɒgrəfi/ *noun* the science of codes which allow ordinary text to be encrypted so that it cannot be read without a key

cryptography support service /ˌkrɪptɒgrəfi sə'pɔːt ˌsɜːvɪs/ *noun* a service which helps senders or receivers of encrypted electronic messages to read those messages

CS gas /ˌsiː es 'gæs/ *noun* gas given off by solid crystals of $C_6H_4(Cl)CH$, used by police as a method of crowd control

CSO *abbreviation* community service order

CTT *abbreviation* capital transfer tax

culpability /ˌkʌlpə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the fact of being culpable

culpable /'kʌlpəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being likely to attract blame

culpable homicide /ˌkʌlpəb(ə)l 'hɒmɪsaɪd/ *noun US* murder or manslaughter

culpable negligence /ˌkʌlpəb(ə)l 'neglɪdʒəns/ *noun US* negligence which is so bad that it amounts to an offence

culprit /'kʌlprɪt/ *noun* somebody who is responsible for a crime or for something which has gone wrong

curiam ◗ **per curiam**

currency /'kʌrənsɪ/ *noun* money in coins and notes which is used in a particular country

current account /'kʌrənt əˌkaʊnt/ *noun* an ordinary account in a bank into which money can be deposited and on which cheques can be drawn

current assets /ˌkʌrənt 'æsets/ *plural noun* assets used by a company in its ordinary work, e.g. materials, finished goods, cash

current liabilities /ˌkʌrənt laɪə 'bɪlɪtiz/ *plural noun* debts which a company has to pay within the next accounting period

curriculum vitae /kəˌrɪkjʊləm 'viːtaɪ/ *noun* a summary of a person's life story showing details of education and work experience ○ *Candidates should send a letter of application with a curriculum vitae to the administrative office.* Abbreviation **CV** (NOTE: The US term is **résumé**.)

curtilage /'kɜːtɪlɪdʒ/ *noun* land round a house

custodial establishment /kʌˌstəʊdiəl ɪ'stæblɪʃmənt/ *noun* a prison or other institution where criminals are kept

custodial sentence /kʌˌstəʊdiəl 'sentəns/ *noun* a sentence which involves sending someone to prison

custodian /kʌ'stəʊdiən/ *noun* somebody who protects, guards or looks after something or someone

custody /'kʌstədi/ *noun* **1.** the condition of being kept in prison or in a cell □ **in police custody** held by the police, but not actually arrested, while helping the police with their inquiries ○ *The young men were kept in police custody overnight.* **2.** the legal right of a parent to keep and bring up a child after a divorce ○ *Custody of the children was awarded to the mother.* ○ *The court granted the mother custody of both children.* **3.** the control and care of something by someone ○ *The files are in the custody of my lawyer or in my lawyer's custody.*

custom /'kʌstəm/ *noun* **1.** unwritten rules which lay down how things are usually done and have been done for a long time ○ *It is the custom that everyone stands up when the magistrates enter the courtroom.* Also called **customary law** □ **the customs of the trade** general way of working in a trade **2.** the use of a shop by regular shoppers □ **to lose someone's custom** to do something which makes a regular customer go to another shop

customs /'kʌstəmz/ *plural noun* **1.** same as **Customs and Excise** □ **to go through customs** to pass through the area of a port or airport where customs officials examine goods **2.** office of this department at a port or airport

Customs and Excise /ˌkʌstəmz ən 'eksaɪz/ *noun* a government department which deals with VAT and with taxes on imports and on taxable products such as alcohol produced in the country

customs barrier /'kʌstəmz ˌbærɪə/ *noun* the existence of customs duty intended to prevent imports

customs clearance /'kʌstəmz ˌklɪərəns/ *noun* the act of clearing goods through customs

customs declaration /'kʌstəmz deklə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a statement declaring goods brought into a country on which customs duty may be paid

customs duty /'kʌstəmz ˌdjuːti/ *noun* a tax on goods imported into a country

customs examination /'kʌstəmz ɪgˌzæmɪneɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the examination of goods or baggage by customs officials

customs formalities /'kʌstəmz fɔː ˌmælɪtiz/ *plural noun* declaration of goods by the shipper and examination of them by the customs

customs officer /'kʌstəmz ˌɒfɪsə/, **customs official** *noun* somebody working for the customs

customs seal /'kʌstəmz siːl/ *noun* a seal attached by customs officers to a box to show that the contents have passed through the customs

customs tariffs /ˌkʌstəmz 'tærɪfs/ *plural noun* tax to be paid for importing or exporting goods

customs union /'kʌstəmz ˌjuːnjən/ *noun* an agreement between several countries that goods can travel between them without paying duty, while goods from other countries have to pay special duties

cut in on /ˌkʌt 'ɪn ˌɒn/ *verb* □ **to cut someone in on** to offer someone part of the profits of a deal

CV /ˌsiː 'viː/ *abbreviation* curriculum vitae ○ *Please apply in writing, enclosing a current CV.*

cyberlaw /'saɪbəlɔː/ *noun* law dealing with use of the Internet, especially commercial law relating to commercial transactions, copyright law on information, or defamation law regarding statements made public

cy-près /ˌsiː 'preɪ/ *adjective*, *adverb* as near as possible

cy-près doctrine /ˌsiː 'preɪ ˌdɒktrɪn/ *noun* a rule that if a charity cannot apply its funds to the purposes for which they were intended, a court can apply the funds to a purpose which is as close as possible to the original intention

D

DA *abbreviation US* district attorney

dabs /dæbz/ *plural noun* fingerprints (*slang*)

Dáil /dɔɪl/**, Dáil Éireann** /ˌdɔɪl 'eər(ə)n/ *noun* the lower house of the parliament in the Republic of Ireland ○ *The Foreign Minister reported on the meeting to the Dáil.* (NOTE: The members of the Dáil are called **Teachta Dala (TD)**.)

damage /'dæmɪdʒ/ *noun* harm done to things □ **to suffer damage** to be harmed □ **to cause damage** to harm something □ **causing criminal damage** notifiable offence where serious damage is caused ■ *verb* to harm ○ *The storm damaged the cargo.* ○ *Stock which has been damaged by water.* ○ *He alleged that the newspaper article was damaging to the company's reputation.*

damaged /'dæmɪdʒd/ *adjective* having suffered damage or which has been harmed

damage feasant /ˌdæmɪdʒ 'fiːzənt/ *noun* a situation where the animals of one person damage the property of another person

damages /'dæmɪdʒɪz/ *plural noun* **1.** money claimed by a claimant from a defendant as compensation for harm done ○ *to claim £1,000 in damages* **2.** money awarded by a court as compensation to a claimant ○ *to be liable for* or *in damages* ○ *to pay £25,000 in damages* □ **to bring an action for damages against someone** to take someone to court and claim damages

danger /'deɪndʒə/ *noun* **1.** the possibility of being harmed or killed ○ *There is danger to the employees in using old machinery.* **2.** likelihood or possibility □ **there is no danger of the case being heard early** it is not likely that the case will be heard early □ **in danger of** being easily able to happen ○ *He is in danger to being in contempt of court.*

dangerous /'deɪndʒərəs/ *adjective* being possibly harmful □ **dangerous animals** animals, such as some breeds of dog and some wild animals, which may attack people and have to be kept under strict conditions, or for which a licence has to be held □ **dangerous job** a job where employees may be killed or hurt □ **dangerous weapon** a device or weapon which can hurt someone

dangerous driving /ˌdeɪndʒərəs 'draɪvɪŋ/ *noun* formerly, an offence of driving dangerously (NOTE: Now called 'reckless driving'.) □ **causing death by dangerous driving** the offence committed by a driver causing the death of another person

dark /dɑːk/ *adjective* not being used for hearings, trials, or other proceedings

data protection /'deɪtə prəˌtekʃən/ *noun* protecting information such as records of individuals stored in a computer from being copied or used wrongly (NOTE: **data** is usually singular: *the data is easily available*)

date of commencement /ˌdeɪt əv kə'mensmənt/ *noun* the date when an Act of Parliament takes effect

date stamp /'deɪt stæmp/ *noun* a stamp with rubber figures which can be changed, used for marking the date on documents

day training centre /deɪ ˌtreɪnɪŋ 'sentə/ *noun* a centre where young offenders attend courses as a condition of being on probation

DC *abbreviation* detective constable

DCC *abbreviation* Deputy Chief Constable

dead /ded/ *adjective* **1.** not alive ○ *Six people were dead as a result of the accident.* ○ *We inherited the house from my dead grandfather.* **2.** not working

dead account /ˌded əˈkaʊnt/ *noun* an account which is no longer used

dead letter /ˌded ˈletə/ *noun US* a regulation which is no longer valid ○ *This law has become a dead letter.*

dead loss /ˌded ˈlɒs/ *noun US* a complete loss ○ *The car was written off as a dead loss.*

dealings /ˈdiːlɪŋz/ *plural noun* □ **to have dealings with someone** to do business with someone

death /deθ/ *noun* the act of dying or the state of being dead □ **to put someone to death** to execute someone

death benefit /ˈdeθ ˌbenɪfɪt/ *noun* money paid to the family of someone who dies in an accident at work

death certificate /ˈdeθ səˌtɪfɪkət/ *noun* an official certificate signed by a doctor, stating that a person has died and giving details of the person

death grant /ˈdeθ grɑːnt/ *noun US* a government grant to the family of a person who has died, which is supposed to contribute to the funeral expenses

death in service /ˌdeθ ɪn ˈsɜːvɪs/ *noun* insurance benefit or pension paid when someone dies while employed by a company

death penalty /ˈdeθ ˌpen(ə)lti/ *noun* a sentence ordering a criminal to be executed

debate /dɪˈbeɪt/ *noun* a discussion about a subject, especially a formal discussion leading to a vote ○ *The Bill passed its Second Reading after a short debate.* ○ *The debate continued until 3 a.m.* ■ *verb* to discuss a subject, especially in a formal way that leads to a vote

debenture /dɪˈbentʃə/ *noun* a document whereby a company acknowledges it owes a debt and gives the company's assets as security □ **debenture register, register of debentures** list of debenture holders of a company

debenture bond /dɪˈbentʃə bɒnd/ *noun* a certificate showing that a debenture has been issued

debenture capital /dɪˈbentʃə ˌkæpɪt(ə)l/ *noun* capital borrowed by a company using its fixed assets as security

debenture holder /dɪˈbentʃə ˌhəʊldə/ *noun* somebody who holds a debenture for money lent

debenture issue /dɪˈbentʃə ˌɪʃuː/ *noun* borrowing money against the security of the company's assets

debit /ˈdebɪt/ *verb* □ **to debit an account** to charge an account with a cost ○ *His account was debited with the sum of £25.*

debit and credit /ˌdebɪt ən ˈkredɪt/ *noun* the money that a company owes and which it is entitled to receive

debit balance /ˈdebɪt ˌbæləns/ *noun* the balance in an account showing that more money is owed to or has been received by someone than is owed or has been paid by them

debit note /ˈdebɪt nəʊt/ *noun* a note showing that a customer owes money

debt /det/ *noun* money owed for goods or services ○ *The company stopped trading with debts of over £1 million.* □ **to be in debt** to owe money □ **to get into debt** to start to borrow more money than you can pay back □ **to be out of debt** not to owe money any more □ **to pay back a debt** to pay all the money owed □ **to pay off a debt** to finish paying money owed □ **to service a debt** to pay interest on a debt

debt collection /ˈdet kəˌlekʃən/ *noun* the act of collecting money which is owed

debt collection agency /ˈdet kə ˌlekʃən ˌeɪdʒənsi/ *noun* a company which collects debts for other companies for a commission

debt collector /ˈdet kəˌlektə/ *noun* somebody who collects debts

debt factor /ˈdet ˌfæktə/ *noun* a person who buys debts at a discount and enforces them for himself, or a person who enforces debts for a commission

debtor /ˈdetə/ *noun* somebody who owes money

decease /dɪ'siːs/ *noun* death (*formal*) ○ *On his decease all his property will go to his widow.*

deceased /dɪ'siːst/ *adjective* (*of people*) recently dead ○ *The deceased left all his property to his widow.* ○ *She inherited the estate of a deceased aunt.* ■ *noun* a person who has died recently, or people who have died recently

deceit /dɪ'siːt/ *noun* dishonest behaviour intended to trick someone into paying money or doing something ○ *He built up a career based on lies and deceit over several years.*

deception /dɪ'sepʃən/ *noun* an act of tricking someone into believing or doing something ○ *He obtained her key by deception.* □ **obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception** the offence of deceiving someone so as to derive a financial benefit □ **obtaining property by deception** the offence of tricking someone into handing over possession of property

decide /dɪ'saɪd/ *verb* **1.** to give a judgment in a civil case ○ *The judge decided in favour of the claimant.* **2.** to make up your mind to do something ○ *We have decided to take our neighbours to court.* ○ *The tribunal decided against awarding any damages.*

decided case /dɪ'saɪdɪd ˌkeɪs/ *noun* a case where a court has made a decision and that decision then becomes a precedent

decidendi ➧ **ratio decidendi**

deciding factor /dɪˌsaɪdɪŋ 'fæktə/ *noun* the most important factor which influences a decision

decision /dɪ'sɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a judgment in a civil court □ **the decision of the House of Lords is final** there is no appeal against a decision of the House of Lords **2.** the process of deciding to do something ○ *to come to a decision* or *to reach a decision* **3.** □ **decisions** (*in the EU*) legally binding acts of the European Community which apply to individual Member States of the EU or to groups of people or individual citizens of those states

decision maker /dɪ'sɪʒ(ə)n ˌmeɪkə/ *noun* somebody who has to decide

decision making /dɪˌsɪʒ(ə)n 'meɪkɪŋ/ *noun* the act of coming to a decision □ **the decision-making processes** the ways in which decisions are reached

decisis ➧ **stare decisis**

declaration /ˌdeklə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an official statement

declaration of association /ˌdeklərеɪʃ(ə)n əv əˌsəʊsi'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a statement in the articles of association of a company, saying that the members have agreed to form the company and buy shares in it

declaration of compliance /ˌdeklərеɪʃ(ə)n əv kəm'plaɪəns/ *noun* a declaration made by a person forming a limited company, that the requirements of the Companies' Act have been met

declaration of income /ˌdeklərеɪʃ(ə)n əv 'ɪnkʌm/ *noun* a statement declaring income to the tax office

declaratory judgment /dɪ ˌklærət(ə)ri 'dʒʌdʒmənt/ *noun* a judgment where a court states what the legal position of the various parties is

declare /dɪ'kleə/ *verb* to make an official statement ○ *to declare someone bankrupt* ○ *to declare a dividend of 10%* □ **to declare goods to customs** to state that you are importing goods which are liable to duty □ **to declare an interest** to state in public that you own shares in a company being investigated, that you are related to someone who can benefit from your contacts, etc.

declared /dɪ'kleəd/ *adjective* having been made public or officially stated

declared value /dɪˌkleəd 'vælju:/ *noun* the value of goods entered on a customs declaration

declassification /diːˌklæsɪfɪ 'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of making something no longer secret

declassify /diː'klæsɪfaɪ/ *verb* to make a secret document or piece of information available to the public ○ *The government papers relating to the war have recently been declassified.*

decontrol /diːkən'trəʊl/ *verb* to stop or remove controls from something □ **to decontrol the price of petrol** to stop

controlling the price of petrol so that a free market price can be reached

decree /dɪ'kriː/ *noun* **1.** an order made by a head of state or government which is not approved by a parliament □ **to govern by decree** to rule a country by issuing orders without having them debated and voted in a parliament **2.** an order made by a court ■ *verb* to make an order ○ *The President decreed that June 1st (his birthday) should be a National Holiday.*

decree absolute /dɪˌkriː 'æbsəluːt/ *noun* an order from a court which ends a marriage finally

decree nisi /dɪˌkriː 'naɪsaɪ/ *noun* an order from a court which ends a marriage subject to a decree absolute at a later time

decriminalise /diː'krɪmɪnəlaɪz/**, decriminalize** *verb* to make the possession or use of something no longer a crime ○ *There are plans to decriminalise some soft drugs.*

decrypt /diː'krɪpt/ *verb* to read an encrypted text by using a special key

decryption /diː'krɪpʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the action of reading encrypted text using a special key

deducing title /dɪ'djuːsɪŋ ˌtaɪt(ə)l/ *noun* the act of a vendor proving a valid right to the property being sold

deduction /dɪ'dʌkʃən/ *noun* **1.** a conclusion which is reached by observing something ○ *By deduction, the detective came to the conclusion that the dead person had not been murdered.* **2.** the removal of money from a total, or money removed from a total ○ *Net salary is salary after deduction of tax and social security contributions.* □ **deduction from salary**, **salary deduction, deduction at source** money which a company removes from a salary to give to the government as tax, national insurance contributions, fines etc.

deed /diːd/ *noun* a legal document which has been signed and delivered by the person making it in the presence of two witnesses

deed of arrangement /ˌdiːd əv ə 'reɪndʒmənt/ *noun* an agreement made between a debtor and his or her creditors whereby the creditors accept an agreed sum in settlement of their claim rather than make the debtor bankrupt

deed of assignment /ˌdiːd əv ə 'saɪnmənt/ *noun* an agreement which legally transfers a property from a debtor to a creditor

deed of covenant /ˌdiːd əv 'kʌvənənt/ *noun* an officially signed agreement to do something such as to pay someone a sum of money each year

deed of partnership /ˌdiːd əv 'pɑːtnəʃɪp/ *noun* an agreement which sets up a partnership

deed of transfer /ˌdiːd əv 'trænsfɜː/ *noun* an agreement which transfers the ownership of shares

deed poll /'diːd pəʊl/ *noun* a written legal instrument to which there is only one party, e.g. the validation of a change of name □ **to change one's name by deed poll** to sign a legal document by which you change your name

deem /diːm/ *verb* to believe or to consider ○ *The judge deemed it necessary to order the court to be cleared.* ○ *If no payment is made, the party shall be deemed to have defaulted.*

deeming provision /ˌdiːmɪŋ prə 'vɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* a service of documents which is assumed to have taken place, e.g. if using first-class post, service is deemed to have taken place on the second day after the documents were posted

de facto /ˌdeɪ 'fæktəʊ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning taken as a matter of fact, even though the legal status may not be certain ○ *He is the de facto owner of the property.* ○ *The de facto government has been recognised.*

de facto authority /ˌdeɪ ˌfæktəʊ ɔː 'θɒrɪti/ *noun* the authority or rule of a country by a group because it is actually ruling

defalcation /ˌdiːfæl'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the illegal use of money by someone who is not the owner but who has been trusted to look after it

defamation of character /ˌdefəmeɪʃ(ə)n əv 'kærɪktə/ *noun* the act of injuring someone's reputation by maliciously saying or writing things about him or her

defamatory statement /dɪ ˌfæmət(ə)ri 'steɪtmənt/ *noun* an untrue statement which is capable of lowering the reputation of the stated individual in the eyes of right-thinking people in the community

defame /dɪ'feɪm/ *verb* to say or write things about the character of someone so as to damage his or her reputation

default /dɪ'fɔːlt/ *noun* a failure to do something which is required by law, such as a failure to carry out the terms of a contract, especially a failure to pay back a debt □ **in default of payment** if no payment is made □ **to be in default** not to do or not to have done something which is required by law □ **the company is in default** the company has failed to carry out the terms of the contract □ **by default** because no one else will act □ **he was elected by default** he was elected because all the other candidates withdrew, because there were no other candidates ■ *verb* to fail to carry out the terms of a contract, especially to fail to pay back a debt □ **to default on payments** not to make payments which are due under the terms of a contract

default action /dɪˌfɔːlt 'ækʃən/ *noun* a County Court action to get back money owed

defaulter /dɪ'fɒltə/ *noun* somebody who defaults

default summons /dɪˌfɔːlt 'sʌmənz/ *noun* a County Court summons to someone to pay what is owed

defeasance /dɪ'fiːz(ə)ns/ *noun* in a collateral deed, a clause which says that a contract, bond or recognisance will be revoked if something happens or if some act is performed

defeat /dɪ'fiːt/ *verb* to revoke or render invalid an agreement, contract or bond

defect /dɪ'fekt/ *noun* a fault ■ *verb* (*of a spy, agent or government employee*) to leave your country and go to work for an enemy country

defective /dɪ'fektɪv/ *adjective* **1.** not working properly ○ *The machine broke down because of a defective cooling system.* **2.** not legally valid ○ *His title to the property is defective.*

defence /dɪ'fens/ *noun* **1.** the party in a legal case that is being sued by the claimant **2.** the party in a criminal case that is being prosecuted **3.** the legal team representing a party being sued or prosecuted **4.** the arguments used when fighting a case ○ *His defence was that he did not know the property was stolen.* **5.** a document or statement setting out a defendant's case ○ *A defence must say which parts of a claim are denied or admitted, and which must be proved by the claimant.* □ **to file a defence** to state that you wish to defend a case, and outline the reasons for doing so **6.** the protection of someone or something against attack (NOTE: [all senses] The US spelling is **defense**.)

defence before claim /dɪˌfens bɪ 'fɔː kleɪm/ *noun* a defence that the defendant offered the claimant the amount of money claimed before the claimant started proceedings against him or her. Also called **tender before claim**

defence counsel /dɪ'fens ˌkaʊnsəl/ *noun* a solicitor who represents the defendant or the accused

Defence Secretary /ˌsekrətri əv steɪt fə dɪ'fens/ *noun* same as **Secretary of State for Defence** (NOTE: The US spelling is **Defense Secretary**.)

defence statement /dɪ'fens ˌsteɪtmənt/ *noun* a document used in criminal proceedings that sets out the accused's defence before going to trial

defence witness /dɪˌfens 'wɪtnəs/ *noun* somebody who is called to court to give evidence which helps the case of the defendant or of the accused

defend /dɪ'fend/ *verb* **1.** to fight to protect someone or something which is being attacked ○ *The company is defending itself against the takeover bid.* **2.** to speak on behalf of someone who has been charged with a crime ○ *He hired the best lawyers to defend him against the tax authorities.* □ **to defend an action** to appear in court to state your case when accused of something

defendant /dɪ'fendənt/ *noun* **1.** somebody who is sued in a civil case. Compare **claimant, plaintiff 2.** somebody who is accused of a crime in a crim-

inal case (NOTE: usually called the **accused**)

defer /dɪ'fɜː/ *verb* to arrange a meeting or activity for a later date than originally planned ○ *to defer judgment* ○ *The decision has been deferred until the next meeting.* (NOTE: **deferring – deferred**)

deferment /dɪ'fɜːmənt/ *noun* the act of arranging a meeting or activity for a later date than originally planned ○ *deferment of payment* ○ *deferment of a decision*

deferment of sentence /dɪ ˌfɜːmənt əv 'sentəns/ *noun* a decision to delay sentencing a convicted criminal for up to six months to assess their behaviour in that period

deferred /dɪ'fɜːd/ *adjective* delayed until a later date

deferred creditor /dɪˌfɜːd 'kredɪtə/ *noun* somebody who is owed money by a bankrupt but who is paid only after all other creditors

deferred payment /dɪˌfɜːd 'peɪmənt/ *noun* payment for goods by instalments over a long period

deficiency /dɪ'fɪʃ(ə)nsi/ *noun US* the amount of tax owing by a taxpayer after he or she has submitted a tax return which is too low

deforce /diː'fɔːs/ *verb* to take wrongfully and hold land which belongs to someone else

deforcement /diː'fɔːsmənt/ *noun* the wrongful taking and holding of another person's land

defraud /dɪ'frɔːd/ *verb* to trick someone so as to obtain money illegally ○ *He defrauded the Inland Revenue of thousands of pounds.* (NOTE: You defraud someone **of** something.)

defray /dɪ'freɪ/ *verb* to provide money to pay the cost of something ○ *The company agreed to defray the costs of the prosecution.*

degrading treatment or punishment /dɪˌgreɪdɪŋ ˌtriːtmənt ɔː 'pʌnɪʃmənt/ *noun* an absolute right prohibiting an individual from being subjected to a feeling of fear, anguish and inferiority which has the possible effect of humiliating the victim, as such treatment can never be justified as being in the public interest (NOTE: It is found in Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights and was introduced into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998.)

degree /dɪ'griː/ *noun* **1.** a level or measure of a relationship **2.** *US* a system for classifying murders

COMMENT: In the US, the penalty for first degree murder can be death.

de jure /ˌdeɪ 'dʒʊəri/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'as a matter of law', where the legal title is clear ○ *He is the de jure owner of the property.* ◊ **de facto**

del credere agent /del 'kreɪdərɪ ˌeɪdʒənt/ *noun* an agent who receives a high commission because he or she guarantees payment by customers to his or her principal

delegate *noun* /'delɪgət/ somebody who is elected by others to put their case at a meeting ○ *The company sent a delegate to the conference in Hong Kong* ■ *verb* /'delə,geɪt/ to pass authority or responsibility to someone else

delegated legislation /ˌdeləgeɪtɪd ˌledʒɪ'sleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** (*in the UK*) legislation which has the power of an Act of Parliament but which is passed by a minister to whom Parliament has delegated its authority **2.** (*in the EU*) legislation which is proposed by the Commission and implemented by the Council of Ministers

delegatus non potest delegare /ˌdelɪgɑːtəs nɒn pɒˌtest ˌdelɪ'gɑːreɪ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'the delegate cannot delegate to someone else'

deliberate *adjective* /dɪ'lɪb(ə)rət/ done on purpose ○ *The police suggest that the letter was a deliberate attempt to encourage disorder.* ■ *verb* /dɪ'lɪbəreɪt/ to consider or to discuss a problem ○ *The committee deliberated for several hours before reaching a decision.*

deliberations /dɪˌlɪbə'reɪʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* discussions ○ *The result of the committee's deliberations was passed to the newspapers.*

delicti ◗ **corpus delicti**

delicto ◗ **in flagrante delicto**

delinquency /dɪ'lɪŋkwənsi/ *noun* the act of committing crime, usually minor crime

delinquent /dɪ'lɪŋkwənt/ *adjective* **1.** *US* (*of a debt*) overdue **2.** (*of behaviour*) antisocial or criminal ■ *noun* someone, especially a young person, who has acted in an antisocial way or broken the law □ **a juvenile delinquent**, **a delinquent** *US* young criminal who commits minor crimes, especially crimes against property

delivery /dɪ'lɪv(ə)ri/ *noun* **1.** □ **delivery of goods** transport of goods to a customer's address □ **to take delivery of goods** to accept goods when they are delivered **2.** goods being transferred from the possession of person to another ○ *We take in three deliveries a day.* ○ *There were four items missing in the last delivery.* **3.** the transfer of a bill of exchange **4.** a formal act whereby a deed becomes effective ○ *Deeds take effect only from the time of delivery.*

delivery note /dɪ'lɪv(ə)ri nəʊt/ *noun* a list of goods being delivered which is given to the customer with the goods

delivery order /dɪ'lɪv(ə)ri ˌɔːdə/ *noun* an instruction for goods to be delivered given by the customer to the person holding the goods

delivery up /dɪ'lɪv(ə)ri ʌp/ *noun* the action of delivering goods which have been made in infringement of a copyright or patent to the claimant, so that they can be destroyed (*infringement of copyright*)

demagogue /'deməgɒg/ *noun* (*usually as criticism*) a leader who is able to get the support of the people by exciting their lowest feelings and prejudices

demagogy, demagoguery *noun* the activity of appealing to feelings such as fear, greed or hatred of the mass of the people

demand bill /dɪ'mɑːnd bɪl/ *noun* a bill of exchange which must be paid when payment is asked for

demanding with menaces /dɪ ˌmɑːndɪŋ wɪð 'menəss/ *noun* the offence of attempting to make someone give you something by threatening them with violence

de minimis non curat lex /ˌdeɪ ˌmɪnɪmis nɒn ˌkjʊərət 'leks/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'the law does not deal with trivial things'

demise /dɪ'maɪz/ *noun* **1.** death ○ *On his demise the estate passed to his daughter.* **2.** the granting of property on a lease

demise charter /dɪˌmaɪz 'tʃɑːtə/ *noun* the charter of a ship without the crew

demise of the Crown /dɪˌmaɪz əv ðə 'kraʊn/ *noun* the death of a king or queen

democracy /dɪ'mɒkrəsi/ *noun* **1.** a theory or system of government by freely elected representatives of the people ○ *After the coup, democracy was replaced by a military dictatorship.* **2.** the right to fair government, free election of representatives and equality in voting **3.** a country ruled in this way ○ *The pact was welcomed by western democracies.*

democratic /ˌdemə'krætɪk/ *adjective* **1.** referring to a democracy ○ *After the coup the democratic processes of government were replaced by government by decree.* **2.** free and fair, reflecting the views of the majority ○ *The resolution was passed by a democratic vote of the council.* ○ *The action of the leader is against the wishes of the party as expressed in a democratic vote at the party conference.*

demonstrative legacy /dɪ ˌmɒnstrətɪv 'legəsi/ *noun* a gift in a will which is ordered to be paid out of a special account

demur /dɪ'mɜː/ *noun* an objection ○ *Counsel made no demur to the proposal.* ■ *verb* **1.** not to agree ○ *Counsel stated that there was no case to answer, but the judge demurred.* **2.** to make a formal objection that the facts as alleged are not sufficient to warrant the civil action (NOTE: **demurring – demurred**)

demurrage /dɪ'mʌrɪdʒ/ *noun* money paid to the owner of a cargo when a ship is delayed in a port

demurrer /dɪ'mɜːrə/ *noun* in a civil action, a plea that although the facts of the case are correct, they are not sufficient to warrant the action

denial /dɪ'naɪəl/ *noun* **1.** the act of not allowing something **2.** the act of stating

that you have not done something ○ *In spite of his denials he was found guilty.*

denial of human rights /dɪˌnaɪəl əv 'hjuːmən raɪts/ *noun* the act of refusing someone a generally accepted right

denial of justice /dɪˌnaɪəl əv 'dʒʌstɪs/ *noun* a situation where justice appears not to have been done

denial-of-service attack /dɪˌnaɪəl əv 'sɜːvɪs əˌtæk/ *noun* an illegal attempt to cause a computer system to crash by sending it data from many sources simultaneously

de novo /ˌdeɪ 'nəʊvəʊ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'starting again'

deny /dɪ'naɪ/ *verb* **1.** not to allow something ○ *She was denied the right to see her lawyer.* **2.** to say that you have not done something ○ *He denied being in the house at the time of the murder.* (NOTE: You deny someone something *or* deny doing *or* having done something.)

depart /dɪ'pɑːt/ *verb* □ **to depart from normal practice** to act in a different way from the normal practice

Department of Justice /dɪ ˌpɑːtmənt əv 'dʒʌstɪs/ *noun US* the department of the US government responsible for federal legal cases, headed by the Attorney-General

Department of Justice Canada /dɪˌpɑːtmənt əv ˌdʒʌstɪs 'kænədə/ *noun* the Canadian government department that is responsible for developing policies affecting the justice system and providing legal services to the federal government

Department of State /dɪˌpɑːtmənt əv ˌsəʊʃ(ə)l 'steɪt/ *noun* **1.** a major section of the British government headed by a Secretary of State ○ *the Department of Trade and Industry* **2.** a major section of the US government headed by a Secretary ○ *the Lord Chancellor's Department*

departure /dɪ'pɑːtʃə frəm/ *noun* □ **a departure from the usual practice** different from what usually happens ○ *This forms a departure from established practice.* ○ *Any departure from the terms and conditions of the contract must be advised in writing.*

dependant /dɪ'pendənt/ *noun* **1.** somebody who is supported financially by someone else ○ *He has to provide for his family and dependants out of a very small salary.* **2.** a person who is a member of the family of someone who works in the European Union, even if not a EU citizen

COMMENT: For the purposes of EU law, dependants are classified as the spouse of a EU citizen, the children and parents of a EU citizen, the grandchildren and grandparents of a EU citizen (in the case of children and grandchildren, they count as dependants up to the age of 21).

dependent /dɪ'pendənt/ *adjective* **1.** being supported financially by someone else ○ *Tax relief is allowed for dependent relatives.* **2.** referring to a dependant

dependent rights /dɪ'pendənt raɪts/ *plural noun* the rights of a dependant to enter a EU country along with a parent or other close relative

deponent /dɪ'pəʊnənt/ *noun* somebody who makes a statement under oath, by affirmation or by affidavit

deport /dɪ'pɔːt/ *verb* to send someone away from a country permanently ○ *The illegal immigrants were deported.*

deportation /ˌdiːpɔː'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the sending of someone away from a country ○ *The convicts were sentenced to deportation.*

deportation order /ˌdiːpɔː'teɪʃ(ə)n ˌɔːdə/ *noun* an official order to send someone away from a country ○ *The minister signed the deportation order.*

depose /dɪ'pəʊz/ *verb* **1.** to state under oath **2.** to remove a monarch from the throne

deposit /dɪ'pɒzɪt/ *noun* **1.** money placed in a bank for safe keeping or to earn interest **2.** money given in advance so that the thing which you want to buy will not be sold to someone else ○ *to leave £10 as deposit* □ **to forfeit a deposit** to lose a deposit because you have decided not to buy the item ■ *verb* **1.** to put documents somewhere for safe keeping ○ *We have deposited the deeds of the house with the bank.* ○ *He deposited his will with his solicitor.* **2.** to put money into a bank account ○ *to deposit £100 in a current account*

deposit account /dɪ'pɒzɪt əˌkaʊnt/ *noun* a bank account which pays interest but on which notice has to be given to withdraw money

depositary /dɪ'pɒzɪtəri/ *noun US* a person or corporation that can place money or documents for safekeeping with a depository (NOTE: Do not confuse with **depository**.)

deposition /ˌdepə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a written statement of evidence from a witness

depositor /dɪ'pɒzɪtə/ *noun* somebody who deposits money in a bank

depository /dɪ'pɒzɪt(ə)ri/ *noun* a person or company with whom money or documents can be deposited (NOTE: Do not confuse with **depositary**.)

deprave /dɪ'preɪv/ *verb* to make someone's character bad ○ *Such TV programmes which may deprave the minds of children who watch them.*

deputise /'depjʊtaɪz/**, deputize** *verb* □ **to deputise for someone** to take the place of someone who is absent □ **to deputise someone** to appoint someone as a deputy

deputy /'depjʊti/ *noun* **1.** somebody who takes the place of a higher official, who assists a higher official ○ *He acted as deputy for the chairman* or *he acted as the chairman's deputy.* **2.** *US* somebody who acts for or assists a sheriff

derelict /'derɪlɪkt/ *noun* an abandoned floating boat

dereliction of duty /derɪˌlɪkʃən əv 'djuːti/ *noun* failure to do what you ought to do ○ *She was found guilty of gross dereliction of duty.*

derivative action /dɪˌrɪvətɪv 'ækʃən/ *noun* an action started by a shareholder or a group of shareholders which is derived from the company's rights but which the company itself does not want to proceed with

derogate /'derəgeɪt/ *verb* □ **to derogate from something which has been agreed** to act to prevent something which has been agreed from being fully implemented

derogation /ˌderə'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act of avoiding or destroying something **2.** (*in the EU*) an action by which an EC directive is not applied

COMMENT: Derogations from the principle of equality of access to employment may be where the job can only be done by someone of one particular sex, such as a person modelling men's clothes.

derogation of responsibility /ˌderəgeɪʃ(ə)n əv rɪˌspɒnsɪ'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the avoidance of doing something that should be done

descendant /dɪ'sendənt/ *noun* (*in the EU*) a child or grandchild of a person (NOTE: The opposite, the parents or grandparents of a person, are **ascendants**.)

descent /dɪ'sent/ *noun* **1.** family ties of inheritance between parents and children □ **he is British by descent**, **he is of British descent** one (or both) of his parents is British **2.** □ **by descent** way of inheriting property by an heir, where there is no will

desegregate /diː'segrɪgeɪt/ *verb* to end a policy of segregation

desegregation /ˌdiːsegrɪ'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the ending of segregation

deselect /ˌdiːsɪ'lekt/ *verb* to decide that a person who had been selected by a political party as a candidate for a constituency is no longer the candidate

deselection /ˌdiːsɪ'lekʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of deselecting ○ *Some factions in the local party have proposed the deselection of the candidate.*

desert /dɪ'zɜːt/ *verb* **1.** to leave the armed forces without permission ○ *He deserted and went to live in South America.* **2.** to leave a family or spouse ○ *The two children have been deserted by their father.*

deserter /dɪ'zɜːtə/ *noun* somebody who has left the armed forces without permission

desertion /dɪ'zɜːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act of leaving the armed forces without permission **2.** the act of leaving a spouse ○ *He divorced his wife because of her desertion.*

despatch /dɪ'spætʃ/ *verb* to send ○ *The letters about the rates were despatched yesterday.* ○ *The Defence Minis-*

ter was despatched to take charge of the operation.

despatch box /dɪ'spætʃ bɒks/ *noun* **1.** a red box in which government papers are sent to ministers **2.** one of two boxes on the centre table in the House of Commons at which a Minister or member of the Opposition Front Bench stands to speak □ **to be at the despatch box** (*of a minister*) to be speaking in parliament

destruction /dɪ'strʌkʃən/ *noun* the action of killing someone, or of ending the existence of something completely ○ *The destruction of the evidence in the fire at the police station made it difficult to prosecute.*

detain /dɪ'teɪn/ *verb* to hold a person so that he or she cannot leave ○ *The suspects were detained by the police for questioning.*

detainee /ˌdiːteɪ'niː/ *noun* somebody who has been detained

detainer /dɪ'teɪnə/ *noun* the act of holding a person

detect /dɪ'tekt/ *verb* to notice or discover something which is hidden or difficult to see ○ *The machine can detect explosives.*

detection /dɪ'tekʃən/ *noun* the process of discovering something, especially discovering who has committed a crime or how a crime has been committed

detection rate /dɪ'tekʃ(ə)n reɪt/ *noun* the number of crimes which are solved, as a percentage of all crimes

detective /dɪ'tektɪv/ *noun* somebody, usually a policeman, who tries to solve a crime

COMMENT: The ranks of detectives in the British Police Force are Detective Constable, Detective Sergeant, Detective Inspector, Detective Chief Inspector, Detective Superintendent, and Detective Chief Superintendent.

detective agency /dɪˌtektɪv 'eɪdʒənsi/ *noun* an office which hires out the services of private detectives

detention /dɪ'tenʃən/ *noun* **1.** the act of keeping someone so that he or she cannot escape ○ *The suspects were placed in detention.* **2.** wrongfully holding goods which belong to someone else

detention centre /dɪ'tenʃən ˌsentə/ *noun* a place where young offenders aged between 14 and 21 can be kept for corrective training, instead of being sent to prison, if they are convicted of crimes which would usually carry a sentence of three months' imprisonment or more

detention order /dɪˌtenʃən 'ɔːdə/ *noun* a court order asking for someone to be kept in detention

determine /dɪ'tɜːmɪn/ *verb* **1.** to control what will happen or what something will be like ○ *Their attitudes have been determined by their experiences.* **2.** to discover something ○ *We need to determine what the long-term effects of this decision might be.*

deterrence /dɪ'terəns/ *noun* the idea that the harsh punishment of one criminal will deter other people from committing crimes

deterrent /dɪ'terənt/ *noun* a punishment which is strong enough to stop people from committing a crime ○ *A long prison sentence will act as a deterrent to other possible criminals.*

deterrent sentence /dɪˌterənt 'sentəns/ *noun* a harsh sentence which the judge hopes will deter other people from committing crimes

detinue /'detɪnjuː/ *noun* the tort of wrongfully holding goods which belong to someone else □ **action in detinue** action formerly brought to regain possession of goods which were wrongfully held by someone

detriment /'detrɪmənt/ *noun* damage or harm □ **without detriment to his claim** without harming his claim □ **his action was to the detriment of the claimant** his action harmed the claimant

detrimental /ˌdetrɪ'ment(ə)l/ *adjective* harmful ○ *Action detrimental to the maintenance of public order.*

developer /dɪ'veləpə/ *noun* □ **a property developer** person who plans and builds a group of new houses or new factories

development area /dɪ'veləpmənt ˌeərɪə/ *noun* an area which has been given special help from a government to encourage businesses and factories to be set up there

devil /'dev(ə)l/ *noun* a barrister to whom another barrister passes work be-

cause he or she is too busy ■ *verb* to pass instruction to another barrister because you are too busy to deal with the case yourself □ **to devil for someone** to do unpleasant or boring work for someone

devise /dɪ'vaɪz/ *noun* a gift of freehold land to someone in a will ■ *verb* to give freehold property to someone in a will

COMMENT: Giving of other types of property is a **bequest**.

devisee /dɪvaɪ'ziː/ *noun* somebody who receives freehold property in a will

devolve /dɪ'vɒlv/ *verb* to pass to someone under the terms of a will

dictum /'dɪktəm/ *noun* a statement made by a judge

die /daɪ/ *verb* to stop living. ◊ **death** (NOTE: **dying – died**)

digest /'daɪdʒest/ *noun* a book which collects summaries of court decisions together, used for reference purposes by legal practitioners

dilapidation /dɪˌlæpɪ'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* damage arising through neglect

dilatory /'dɪlət(ə)ri/ *adjective* too slow

dilatory motion /ˌdɪlət(ə)ri 'məʊʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a motion in the House of Commons to delay the debate on a proposal

dilatory plea /'dɪlət(ə)ri pliː/ *noun* a plea by a defendant relating to the jurisdiction of the court, which has the effect of delaying the action

diminished responsibility /dɪ ˌmɪnɪʃt rɪˌspɒnsɪ'bɪlɪti/ *noun* a mental state of a criminal, either inherited or caused by illness or injury, which means that he or she cannot be held responsible for the crime which has been committed

DInsp *abbreviation* detective inspector

dip /dɪp/ *noun* a pickpocket (*slang*)

diplomat /'dɪpləmæt/, **diplomatist** /dɪ'pləʊmətɪst/ *noun* a person such as an ambassador who is an official representative of his country in another country

diplomatic agent /ˌdɪpləmætɪk 'eɪdʒənt/ *noun* a person officially employed by the embassy of a foreign country

diplomatic channels /ˌdɪpləmætɪk 'tʃæn(ə)lz/ *plural noun* communicating between countries through their diplomats ○ *The message was delivered by diplomatic channels.* ○ *They are working to restore diplomatic channels between the two countries.*

diplomatic corps /ˌdɪplə'mætɪk kɔː/ *plural noun* all foreign diplomats in a city or country

diplomatic immunity /ˌdɪpləmætɪk ɪ'mjuːnɪti/ *noun* not subject to the laws of a country because of being a foreign diplomat ○ *He claimed diplomatic immunity to avoid being arrested.*

direct /daɪ'rekt/ *verb* to give an order to someone ○ *The judge directed the jury to acquit all the defendants.* ○ *The Crown Court directed the justices to rehear the case.*

direct discrimination /daɪˌrekt dɪ ˌskrɪmɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* illegal discrimination where similar cases are treated differently or where different cases are treated in the same way

direct effect /daɪˌrekt ɪ'fekt/ *noun* the effect of a legal decision of the European Union which creates rights for citizens. ◊ **supremacy**

COMMENT: Direct effect applies vertically, from the state giving a right to the citizen, and from the citizen who has an obligation to the state. It can also apply horizontally between individual citizens who have rights and obligations to each other.

direct evidence /daɪˌrekt 'evɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* first-hand evidence such as the testimony of an eye witness or the production of original documents

direct examination /daɪˌrekt ɪg ˌzæmɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the questioning of a witness by his or her own lawyers as a means of oral evidence by the witness to be given in court

direction /daɪ'rekʃən/ ◇ **directions** **1.** order which explains how something should be done ○ *the court is not able to give directions to the local authority* **2.** instructions from a judge to a jury **3.** orders given by a judge concerning the general way of proceeding with a case

directive /daɪ'rektɪv/ *noun* **1.** an order or command to someone to do something **2.** (*in the EU*) a legally binding act of the European Community which is binding

on the Member States of the EU but not on individuals until it has been made part of national law ○ *The Commission issued a directive on food prices.* Compare **regulations**

COMMENT: A directive is binding in the result which is to be achieved. Directives do not have a direct effect before any time limit for their implementation has expired, and they do not have any horizontal direct effect (i.e. an effect between citizens).

Director-General /daɪˌrektə ˈdʒen(ə)rəl/ *noun* (*in the EU*) the head of the Directorates General in the Commission (NOTE: The plural is **Directors-General**.)

Director-General of Fair Trading /daɪˌrektə ˌdʒen(ə)rəl əv ˌfeə ˈtreɪdɪŋ/ *noun* an official in charge of the Office of Fair Trading, dealing with consumers and the law

Director of Public Prosecutions /daɪˌrektə əv ˌpʌblɪk ˌprɒsɪ ˈkjuːʃ(ə)nz/ *noun* a government official in charge of the Crown Prosecution Service, working under the Attorney-General, who can prosecute in important cases and advises other government departments if prosecutions should be started ○ *The papers in the fraud case have been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.* Abbreviation **DPP**

direct selling /daɪˌrekt ˈselɪŋ/ *noun* the activity of selling a product direct to the customer without going through a shop

direct sexual discrimination /daɪˌrekt ˌsekʃuəl dɪˌskrɪmɪˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an instance of sexual discrimination that is overt, e.g. failure to pay one sex the same wage as the other in an equivalent job. ◊ **indirect sexual discrimination**

direct taxation /daɪˌrekt tæk ˈseɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a tax such as income tax which is paid direct to the government

disability /ˌdɪsəˈbɪlɪti/ *noun* **1.** the condition of being unable to use a part of the body properly **2.** a lack of legal capacity to act in your own right because of age or mental state □ **person under a disability** person who is not capable to taking legal action for himself

Disability Rights Commission /ˌdɪsəbɪlɪti ˈraɪts kəˌmɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an official committee set up to deal with issues relating to discrimination against people with disabilities. Abbreviation **DRC**

disabled person /dɪsˌeɪb(ə)ld ˈpɜːs(ə)n/ *noun* a person with physical disabilities

disallow /ˌdɪsəˈlaʊ/ *verb* not to accept something ○ *The judge disallowed the defence evidence.* ○ *He claimed £2000 for fire damage, but the claim was disallowed.*

disapproval /ˌdɪsəˈpruːv(ə)l/ *noun* the act of disapproving a decision made by a lower court

disapprove /ˌdɪsəˈpruːv/ *verb* **1.** to show doubt about a decision made by a lower court, but not to reverse or overrule it ○ *The Appeal Court disapproved the County Court decision.* **2.** □ **to disapprove of something** to show that you do not approve of something, that you do not think something is good ○ *The judge openly disapproves of juries.*

disbar /dɪsˈbɑː/ *verb* to stop a barrister from practising (NOTE: **disbarring – disbarred**)

disburse /dɪsˈbɜːs/ *verb* to pay money

disbursement /dɪsˈbɜːsmənt/ *noun* an amount of money paid from a fund held for a particular purpose, or the process of making such a payment

discharge *noun* /ˈdɪstʃɑːdʒ/ **1.** the ending of a contract by performing all the conditions of the contract, releasing a party from the terms of the contract, or being in breach of contract **2.** payment of debt □ **in full discharge of a debt** paying a debt completely, paying less than the total amount owed, by agreement **3.** release from prison or from military service **4.** □ **in discharge of his duties as director** carrying out his duties ■ *verb* /dɪsˈtʃɑːdʒ/ **1.** to let someone go free ○ *The prisoners were discharged by the judge.* □ **the judge discharged the jury** the judge told the jury that they were no longer needed **2.** □ **to discharge a bankrupt** to release someone from bankruptcy (as when a person has paid his or her debts) **3.** □ **to discharge a debt**, **to discharge one's liabilities** to pay a debt or

one's liabilities in full **4.** to dismiss someone from a job or position ○ *to discharge an employee*

discharge by agreement /ˌdɪstʃɑːdʒ baɪ əˈgriːmənt/ *noun* a situation where both parties agree to end a contract

discharge by performance /dɪs ˌtʃɑːdʒ baɪ pəˈfɔːməns/ *noun* a situation where the terms of a contract have been fulfilled

discharged bankrupt /dɪsˌtʃɑːdʒd ˈbæŋkrʌpt/ *noun* somebody who has been released from being bankrupt

discharge in bankruptcy /ˌdɪstʃɑːdʒ ɪn ˈbæŋkrʌptsi/ *noun* an order of a court to release someone from bankruptcy

disciplinary /ˌdɪsɪˈplɪnəri/ *adjective* □ **to take disciplinary action against someone** to punish someone

disciplinary procedure /ˌdɪsɪ ˈplɪnəri prəˌsiːdʒə/ *noun* a way of warning an employee officially that he or she is breaking rules or that their standard of work is unacceptable

discipline /ˈdɪsɪplɪn/ *verb* to punish someone ○ *The clerk was disciplined for leaking the report to the newspapers.*

disclaim /dɪsˈkleɪm/ *verb* **1.** to refuse to admit ○ *He disclaimed all knowledge of the bomb.* ○ *The management disclaims all responsibility for customers' property.* **2.** to refuse to accept a legacy or devise made to you under someone's will

disclaimer /dɪsˈkleɪmə/ *noun* **1.** a legal refusal to accept responsibility or to accept a right **2.** a clause in a contract where a party disclaims responsibility for something **3.** a refusal to accept property bequeathed under someone's will

disclose /dɪsˈkləʊz/ *verb* **1.** to tell details ○ *The bank has no right to disclose details of my account to the tax office.* **2.** (*in civil cases*) to say that a document exists ○ *Parties to a case are required to disclose relevant documents.*

disclosure /dɪsˈkləʊʒə/ *noun* **1.** the act of telling details or of publishing a secret ○ *The disclosure of the takeover bid raised the price of the shares.* ○ *The defendant's case was made stronger by the disclosure that the claimant was an undischarged bankrupt.* ◊ **non-disclosure 2.** stating that documents exist or have existed before a hearing starts in the civil courts, usually done by preparing a list of documents. Parties to whom documents have been disclosed have the right to inspect them. (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has in some contexts replaced **discovery**.)

discontinuance /ˌdɪskənˈtɪnjuəns/ *noun* the action of discontinuing a claim or action ○ *The claimant has served notice of discontinuance.*

discontinue /ˌdɪskənˈtɪnjuː/ *verb* to stop a claim which has been issued or an action which has started ○ *A claimant may need to seek permission of the court to discontinue a claim.*

discovery of documents /dɪ ˌskʌv(ə)ri əv ˈdɒkjʊmənts/ *noun* disclosure of each party's documents to the other before a hearing starts in the civil courts (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has in some contexts been replaced by **disclosure**.)

discredit /dɪsˈkredɪt/ *verb* to show that a person is not reliable ○ *The prosecution counsel tried to discredit the defence witnesses.*

discretion /dɪˈskreʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the ability to decide correctly what should be done ○ *Magistrates have a discretion to allow an accused person to change his election from a summary trial to a jury trial.* ○ *The judge refused the application, on the ground that he had a judicial discretion to examine inadmissible evidence.* □ **to exercise one's discretion** to decide which of several possible ways to act □ **the court exercised its discretion** the court decided what should be done □ **I leave it to your discretion** I leave it for you to decide what to do □ **at the discretion of someone** if someone decides ○ *Membership is at the discretion of the committee.* ○ *Sentencing is at the discretion of the judge.* ○ *The granting of an injunction is at the discretion of the court.*

discretionary /dɪˈskreʃ(ə)n(ə)ri/ *adjective* being possible if someone wants □ **the minister's discretionary powers**

powers which the minister could use if he or she thought it suitable □ **the tribunal has wide discretionary power** the tribunal can decide on many different courses of action

discretionary trust /dɪ ˌskreʃ(ə)n(ə)ri ˈtrʌst/ *noun* a trust where the trustees decide how to invest the income and when and how much income should be paid to the beneficiaries

discriminate /dɪˈskrɪmɪneɪt/ *verb* to note differences between things and act accordingly ○ *The planning committee finds it difficult to discriminate between applications which improve the community, and those which are purely commercial.* □ **to discriminate against someone** to treat someone unequally ○ *The council was accused of discriminating against women in its recruitment policy.* ○ *He claimed he had been discriminated against because of his colour.*

discrimination /dɪˌskrɪmɪˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the unfair treatment of someone because of their colour, class, language, race, religion, sex or a disability ○ *Racial discrimination is against the law.* ○ *She accused the council of sexual discrimination in their recruitment policy.* ○ *There should be no discrimination on the grounds of disability.* **2.** the ability to notice the differences between things ○ *The tests are designed to give clear discrimination between the three categories.* **3.** good judgement and decision-making ○ *The committee showed discrimination in its choice of advisers for the project.*

COMMENT: The UK is gradually introducing the necessary legislation to comply with the European Council Directive on Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation (2000/78/EC). This will result in a consistency of approach between the various types of unlawful discrimination and introduce some new types of unlawful discrimination. In particular, the Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003 and the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 are now both in force and legislation against dismissal on the grounds of age is intended by 2006.

disenfranchise /ˌdɪsɪnˈfræntʃaɪz/, **disfranchise** *verb* to take away someone's right to vote ○ *The company has tried to disenfranchise the ordinary shareholders.*

dishonour /dɪsˈɒnə/ *verb* to refuse to pay a cheque or bill of exchange because there is not enough money in the account to pay it ○ *The bank dishonoured his cheque.* ■ *noun* the act of dishonouring a cheque ○ *The dishonour of the cheque brought her business to a stop.*

disinherit /ˌdɪsɪnˈherɪt/ *verb* to make a will which prevents someone from inheriting ○ *He was disinherited by his father.*

diskette /dɪˈsket/ *noun* a very small floppy disk

dismiss /dɪsˈmɪs/ *verb* **1.** □ **to dismiss an employee** to remove an employee from a job ○ *He was dismissed for being late.* **2.** to refuse to accept ○ *The court dismissed the appeal* or *the application* or *the action.* ○ *The justices dismissed the witness' evidence out of hand.*

dismissal /dɪsˈmɪs(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** the removal of an employee from a job, especially as a result of something they have done wrong. ◊ **wrongful dismissal, unfair dismissal 2.** an unwillingness to accept that something might be true ○ *the company's public dismissal of the allegation of fraud* **3.** an order telling someone to leave a place, or to stop carrying out a role ○ *the dismissal of jurors* **4.** a judge's decision that a court case should not continue

dismissal procedure /dɪsˌmɪs(ə)l prəˈsiːdʒə/ *noun* the process of dismissing an employee, following the rules in the contract of employment

disobedience /ˌdɪsəˈbiːdiəns/ *noun* bad behaviour which ignores rules or requests to do something ○ *The prisoners were put in solitary confinement as punishment for their disobedience of the governor's orders.*

disorder /dɪsˈɔːdə/ *noun* a lack of order or of control

disorderly /dɪsˈɔːdəli/ *adjective* badly behaved ○ *She was charged with disorderly conduct* or *with being drunk and disorderly.*

dispensation /ˌdɪspenˈseɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act of giving out justice **2.** special permission to do something

which is normally not allowed or is against the law

dispense /dɪ'spens/ *verb* **1.** to provide something, especially officially ○ *to dispense justice* **2.** □ **to dispense with something** not to use something, to do without something ○ *The chairman of the tribunal dispensed with the formality of taking minutes.* ○ *The accused decided to dispense with the services of a lawyer.*

displaced person /dɪs,pleɪsd 'pɜːs(ə)n/ *noun* a man or woman who has been forced to leave home and move to another country because of war

dispose /dɪ'spəʊz/ *verb* □ **to dispose of** to get rid of, to sell cheaply ○ *to dispose of excess stock* ○ *to dispose of one's business*

disposition /,dɪspə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of passing property in the form of land or goods to another person, especially in a will ○ *to make testamentary dispositions*

dispossess /,dɪspə'zes/ *verb* to deprive someone wrongfully of his or her possession of land

dispossession /,dɪspə'zeʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of wrongfully depriving someone of possession of land

dispute /dɪ'spjuːt, 'dɪspjuːt/ *noun* a disagreement or argument between parties □ **to adjudicate, to mediate in a dispute** to try to settle a dispute between other parties ■ *verb* to argue against something □ **the defendant disputed the claim** the defendant argued that the claim was not correct □ **she disputed the policeman's version of events** she said that the policeman's story of what had happened was wrong □ **to dispute the jurisdiction of a court** to argue that a court has no jurisdiction over a case

disqualification /dɪs,kwɒlɪfɪ 'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a situation in which someone is legally prevented from doing something **2.** the fact of being legally prevented from driving a car

disqualification from office /dɪs ,kwɒlɪfɪkeɪʃ(ə)n frəm 'ɒfɪs/ *noun* a rule which forces a director to be removed from a directorship if he or she does not fulfil the conditions

disqualify /dɪs'kwɒlɪfaɪ/ *verb* not to allow someone to do something, because they have done something which is not allowed or have committed a legal offence ○ *Being a judge disqualifies him from being a Member of Parliament.* ○ *After the accident she was fined £1000 and disqualified from driving for two years.* ○ *He was convicted of driving a motor vehicle while disqualified.*

disrepute /,dɪsrɪ'pjuːt/ *noun* a situation where something is not regarded very highly □ **to bring something into disrepute** to give something a bad reputation ○ *He was accused of bringing the club into disrepute by his bad behaviour.*

disseisin /dɪs'siːzɪn/ *noun* illegally depriving someone of possession of land

dissemination /dɪ,semɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of passing information, slanderous or libellous statements to other members of the public

dissent /dɪ'sent/ *noun* disagreement with the majority of other people or with the authorities ○ *The opposition showed its dissent by voting against the Bill.* ■ *verb* to disagree in writing with a majority opinion in a court judgment ○ *One of the appeal judges dissented.*

dissenting judgment /dɪ,sentɪŋ 'dʒʌdʒmənt/ *noun* the judgment of a judge, showing that he or she disagrees with other judges in a case which has been heard by several judges

dissolve /dɪ'zɒlv/ *verb* to bring to an end ○ *to dissolve a marriage* or *a partnership or a company* □ **to dissolve Parliament** to end a session of Parliament, and so force a general election

distrain /dɪ'streɪn/ *verb* to seize goods to pay for debts

distress /dɪ'stres/ *noun* the taking of someone's goods to pay for debts

distress sale /dɪ'stres seɪl/ *noun* the selling of someone's goods to pay his or her debts

distribution /,dɪstrɪ'bjuːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* sharing out property in an estate

distribution of assets /,dɪstrɪbjuːʃ(ə)n əv 'æsets/ *noun* sharing the assets of a company among the shareholders

district /'dɪstrɪkt/ *noun* a section of a town or of a country

district attorney /ˌdɪstrɪkt ə'tɜːni/ *noun US* **1.** a prosecuting attorney in a federal district **2.** the state prosecuting attorney ▸ abbreviation **DA**

district court /'dɪstrɪkt kɔːt/ *noun US* a court in a federal district

district registrar /ˌdɪstrɪkt ˌredʒɪ 'strɑː/ *noun* an official who registers births, marriages and deaths in a specific area

district registry /ˌdɪstrɪkt 'redʒɪstri/ *noun* an office where records of births, marriages and deaths are kept

disturb /dɪ'stɜːb/ *verb* □ **to disturb the peace** to make a noise which annoys people in the area

disturbance /dɪ'stɜːbəns/ *noun* a noise or movement of people which annoys other people ○ *Street disturbances forced the government to resign.* ○ *He was accused of making a disturbance in the public library.*

disturbed balance of mind /dɪ ˌstɜːbd 'bæləns əv maɪnd/ *noun US* a state of mind when someone is temporarily incapable of rational action because of depression or mental distress ○ *The verdict of the coroner's court was suicide while the balance of mind was disturbed.*

division /dɪ'vɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** one section of something which is divided into several sections ○ *Smith's is now a division of the Brown group of companies.* **2.** a separate section of the High Court, e.g. the Queen's Bench Division, the Family Division or the Chancery Division, or a separate section of the Appeal Court, e.g. the Civil Division or the Criminal Division **3.** the act of dividing or of being divided □ **to have a division of opinion** to disagree **4.** (*in the EU*) one of the subdivisions of a Directorate in the Commission, with a Head of Division at its head

divisional court /dɪ'vɪʒ(ə)n(ə)l kɔːt/ *noun* one of courts of the High Court

divisional judge /dɪ'vɪʒ(ə)n(ə)l dʒʌdʒ/ *noun* a judge in a division of the High Court

division of responsibility /dɪ ˌvɪʒ(ə)n əv rɪˌspɒnsɪ'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the act of splitting the responsibility for something between several people

divorce /dɪ'vɔːs/ *noun* the legal ending of a marriage ■ *verb* to legally end a marriage to someone ○ *He divorced his wife and married his secretary.*

COMMENT: Under English law, the only basis of divorce is the irretrievable breakdown of marriage. This is proved by one of five grounds: (a) adultery; (b) unreasonable behaviour; (c) one of the parties has deserted the other for a period of two years; (d) the parties have lived apart for two years and agree to a divorce; (e) the parties have lived apart for five years. In the context of divorce proceedings the court has wide powers to make orders regarding residence and contact orders for children, and ancillary relief. Divorce proceedings are normally dealt with by the County Court, or in London at the Divorce Registry. Where divorce proceedings are defended, they are transferred to the High Court, but this is rare and most divorce cases are now conducted by what is called the 'special procedure'.

divorcee /dɪvɔː'siː/ *noun* someone who is divorced

divorce petition /dɪˌvɔːs pə'tɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an official request to a court to end a marriage ○ *She was granted a divorce on the grounds of unreasonable behaviour by her husband.*

Divorce Registry /dɪˌvɔːs 'redʒɪstri/ *noun* a court which deals with divorce cases in London

DMC *abbreviation* donatio mortis causa

dock /dɒk/ *noun* the part of a court where an accused prisoner stands □ **the prisoner in the dock** the prisoner who is being tried for a crime

dock brief /'dɒk briːf/ *noun* a former system where an accused person could choose a barrister from those present in court to represent them for a small fee

dock dues /'dɒk djuːz/ *noun* the payment which a ship makes to the harbour authorities for the right to use the harbour

docket /'dɒkɪt/ *noun* **1.** a list of contents of a package which is being sent **2.** *US* a list of cases for trial

doctrine /'dɒktrɪn/ *noun* a general principle of law

document /'dɒkjʊmənt/ *noun* **1.** a paper or set of papers, printed or handwritten, which contains information ○ *Deeds, contracts and wills are all legal documents.* **2.** anything in which information is recorded, e.g. maps, designs, computer files, databases **3.** an official paper from a government department ■ *verb* to put in a published paper ○ *The cases of unparliamentary language are well documented in Hansard.*

documentary /ˌdɒkjʊ'ment(ə)ri/ *adjective* in the form of documents ○ *documentary evidence* ○ *documentary proof*

documentary evidence /ˌdɒkjʊment(ə)ri 'evɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* evidence in the form of documents

documentary proof /ˌdɒkjʊment(ə)ri 'pruːf/ *noun* proof in the form of a document

documentation /ˌdɒkjʊmen 'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* all documents referring to something ○ *Please send me the complete documentation concerning the sale.*

document exchange /ˌdɒkjʊmənt ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ/ *noun* a bureau which receives documents for clients and holds them securely in numbered boxes. Abbreviation **DX** (NOTE: Service can be effected through a document exchange in cases where this is given as the address for service.)

Doe ◗ **John Doe**

do-it-yourself conveyancing /ˌduː ɪt jəˌself kən'veɪənsɪŋ/ *noun* drawing up a legal conveyance without the help of a lawyer

doli capax, doli incapax *phrase* Latin phrases meaning 'capable of crime' or 'incapable of crime'

COMMENT: Children under ten years of age are doli incapax and cannot be prosecuted for criminal offences; children aged between 10 and 14 are presumed to be doli incapax but the presumption can be reversed if there is evidence of malice or knowledge.

dollar stocks /ˌdɒlə 'stɒkz/ *plural noun* shares in American companies

Domesday Book /'duːmzdeɪ bʊk/ *noun* a record made for King William I in 1086, which recorded all the land in England and the owners and inhabitants for tax purposes

domestic /də'mestɪk/ *adjective* **1.** referring to a family **2.** referring to the market of the country where a business is situated

domestic consumption /də ˌmestɪk kən'sʌmpʃən/ *noun* consumption on the home market

domestic court /də'mestɪk kɔːt/ *noun US* a court which covers the district in which a defendant lives or has his or her address for service (NOTE: The British term is **home court**.)

domestic premises /dəˌmestɪk 'premɪsɪz/ *plural noun* house, flat, or other unit used for private accommodation

domestic proceedings /dəˌmestɪk prə'siːdɪŋz/ *plural noun* a court case which involves a husband and wife, or parents and children

domestic production /dəˌmestɪk prə'dʌkʃən/ *noun* a production of goods in the home country

domestic sales /də'mestɪk seɪlz/ *plural noun* sales in the home market

domicile /'dɒmɪsaɪl/ *noun* a country where someone is deemed to live permanently, or where a company's office is registered, especially for tax purposes ■ *verb* to live in a place officially ○ *The defendant is domiciled in Scotland.* □ **bills domiciled in France** bills of exchange which have to be paid in France

domiciled /'dɒmɪsaɪld/ *adjective* living in a particular place

domicile of choice /ˌdɒmɪsaɪl əv 'tʃɔɪs/ *noun* a country where someone has chosen to live, which is not the domicile of origin

domicile of origin /ˌdɒmɪsaɪl əv 'ɒrɪdʒɪn/ *noun* a domicile which a person has from birth, usually the domicile of the father

dominant owner /ˌdɒmɪnənt 'əʊnə/ *noun* someone who has the right to use someone else's property

dominant tenement /ˌdɒmɪnənt 'tenəmənt/ *noun* land which has been granted an easement over another property (NOTE: also called 'dominant estate' in the USA)

dominion /dəˈmɪnjən/ *noun* □ **a Dominion** an independent state, part of the British Commonwealth ○ *the Dominion of Canada*

donatio mortis causa /dəˌneɪʃiəʊ ˌmɔːtɪs ˈkəʊzə/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'gift because of death': transfer of property made when death is imminent

donee /ˌdəʊˈniː/ *noun* somebody who receives a gift from a donor

donor /ˈdəʊnə/ *noun* somebody who gives property to another

dormant account /ˌdɔːmənt əˈkaʊnt/ *noun* a bank account which is not used

double /ˈdʌb(ə)l/ *verb* to make something twice as big

double jeopardy /ˌdʌb(ə)l ˈdʒepədi/ *noun US* the possibility that a citizen may be tried twice for the same crime, prohibited in most legal systems

double taxation agreement /ˌdʌb(ə)l tækˈseɪʃ(ə)n əˌgriːmənt/, **double taxation treaty** /ˌdʌb(ə)l tækˈseɪʃ(ə)n ˌtriːti/, **double tax treaty** *noun* an agreement between two countries that a person living in one country shall not be taxed in both countries on the income earned in the other country

doubt /daʊt/ *noun* a feeling of not being sure that something is correct □ **beyond reasonable doubt**, **beyond a reasonable doubt** *US* to a degree of certainty that is considered acceptable in convicting a person in a criminal case □ **open to doubt** not certain and even unlikely ○ *Her ability to recognise him after so long is open to doubt.*

doveish /ˈdʌvɪʃ/ *adjective* like a dove ○ *He was accused of having doveish tendencies.*

down payment /ˌdaʊn ˈpeɪmənt/ *noun* part of a total payment made in advance

dowry /ˈdaʊri/ *noun* money or property brought by a wife to her husband when she marries him

DPP *abbreviation* Director of Public Prosecutions

draft /drɑːft/ *noun* **1.** an order for money to be paid by a bank □ **to make a draft on a bank** to ask a bank to pay money for you **2.** the first rough plan of a document which has not been finished ○ *He drew up the draft agreement on the back of an envelope.* ○ *The first draft of the contract was corrected by the managing director.* ○ *The draft Bill is with the House of Commons lawyers.* ■ *verb* to make a first rough plan of a document ○ *to draft a contract* or *a document* or *a bill* ○ *The contract is still being drafted* or *is still in the drafting stage.*

drafter /ˈdrɑːftə/ *noun* somebody who makes a draft

drafting /ˈdrɑːftɪŋ/ *noun* the act of preparing the draft of a document ○ *The drafting of the contract took six weeks.* ○ *The drafting stage of a parliamentary Bill.*

draftsman /ˈdrɑːftsmən/ *noun* somebody who drafts documents

drawee /drɔːˈiː/ *noun* a person or bank asked to make a payment by a drawer

drawings /ˈdrɔːɪŋz/ *plural noun* money taken out of a partnership by a partner as his or her salary

draw up /ˌdrɔː ˈʌp/ *verb* to write a legal document ○ *to draw up a contract* or *an agreement* ○ *to draw up a company's articles of association*

drive /draɪv/ *verb* □ **he drives a hard bargain** he is a difficult negotiator

driving licence /ˈdraɪvɪŋ ˌlaɪs(ə)ns/ *noun* a document which shows that you have passed a driving test and can legally drive a car, truck, etc. ○ *Applicants for the police force should hold a valid driving licence.*

driving without due care and attention /ˌdraɪvɪŋ wɪˌðaʊt djuː ˌkeə ən əˈtenʃən/ *noun* the offence of driving a car in a careless way, so that other people are in danger

drop /drɒp/ *noun* a fall ○ *drop in sales* ○ *sales show a drop of 10%* ○ *a drop in prices* ■ *verb* **1.** to fall ○ *Sales have dropped by 10%* or *have dropped 10%.* ○ *The pound dropped three points against the dollar.* **2.** to stop a case ○ *The prosecution dropped all charges against the accused.* ○ *The claimant decided to drop the case against his neighbour.* (NOTE: **dropping – dropped**)

drop ship /ˌdrɒp 'ʃɪp/ *verb* to deliver a large order direct to a customer

drop shipment /'drɒp ˌʃɪpmənt/ *noun* a delivery of a large order from the factory direct to a customer's shop or warehouse without going through an agent or wholesaler

drug /drʌg/ *noun* **1.** an illegal substance which can be harmful if taken regularly **2.** a medicine given by a doctor to treat a medical problem **3.** to give a substance to someone or put it in their food or drink, especially secretly, to make them go to sleep or become unconscious

COMMENT: There are three classes of controlled drugs: **Class 'A' drugs:** (cocaine, heroin, crack, LSD, etc.); **Class 'B' drugs:** (amphetamines, cannabis, codeine, etc.); and **Class 'C' drugs:** (drugs which are related to the amphetamines, such as benzphetamine). The drugs are covered by five schedules under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations: **Schedule 1:** drugs which are not used medicinally, such as cannabis and LSD, for which possession and supply are prohibited; **Schedule 2:** drugs which can be used medicinally, such as heroin, morphine, cocaine, and amphetamines: these are fully controlled as regards prescriptions by doctors, safe custody in pharmacies, registering of sales, etc. **Schedule 3:** barbiturates, which are controlled as regards prescriptions, but need not be kept in safe custody; **Schedule 4:** benzodiazepines, which are controlled as regards registers of purchasers; **Schedule 5:** other substances for which invoices showing purchase must be kept.

drug abuse /'drʌg əˌbjuːs/ *noun* the regular use of drugs for non-medical reasons

drug addict /'drʌg ˌædɪkt/ *noun* somebody who is physically and mentally dependent on taking drugs regularly

drug addiction /'drʌg əˌdɪkʃən/ *noun* mental and physical dependence on taking a drug regularly

drug baron /'drʌg ˌbærən/ *noun* a person with an important position in an organisation that sells illegal drugs

drug czar /'drʌg sɑː/ *noun* a person employed by a government to lead a campaign against the sale and use of illegal drugs

drug runner /'drʌg ˌrʌnə/ *noun* a person who takes or makes someone else take drugs illegally from one country to another

Drug Squad /'drʌg skwɒd/ *noun* a section of the police force which investigates crime related to drugs

drug trafficking /'drʌg ˌtræfɪkɪŋ/ *noun* the activity of buying and selling drugs illegally

drunk /drʌŋk/ *adjective* incapable because of having drunk too much alcohol

drunk and disorderly /ˌdrʌŋk ən dɪs'ɔːdəli/ *adjective* incapable and behaving in a wild way because of having drunk too much alcohol

drunk and incapable /ˌdrʌŋk ən ɪn 'keɪpəb(ə)l/ *noun* the offence of having drunk so much alcohol that you are not able to act normally

drunkard /'drʌŋkəd/ *noun* somebody who is frequently drunk. ◊ **habitual**

drunken driving /ˌdrʌŋkən 'draɪvɪŋ/ *noun* an offence of driving a car when under the influence of alcohol. Also called **driving with alcohol concentrations above a certain limit**

DSgt *abbreviation* detective sergeant

dud /dʌd/ *adjective*, *noun* (*of a coin, banknote or cheque*) worth nothing because it is false (*informal*) ○ *The £50 note was a dud.*

dud cheque /ˌdʌd 'tʃek/ *noun* a cheque which the bank refuses to pay because the person writing it has not enough money in his or her account to pay it

due /djuː/ *adjective* **1.** owed □ **to fall due**, **to become due** to be ready for payment □ **bill due on May 1st** bill which has to be paid on May 1st □ **balance due to us** amount owed to us which should be paid **2.** expected to arrive ○ *The plane is due to arrive at 10.30* or *is due at 10.30.* **3.** according to what is expected as usual or correct □ **in due form** written in the correct legal form ○ *receipt in due form* ○ *contract drawn up in due form* □ **after due consideration of the problem** after thinking seriously about the problem □ **the due process of the law** the formal work of a fair legal action

due date /'dju: deɪt/ *noun* the date on which a debt has to be paid

due diligence /ˌdju: 'dɪlɪdʒəns/ *noun* the carrying out of your duty as efficiently as is necessary ○ *The executor acted with due diligence to pay the liabilities of the estate.*

due execution of a will /dju: ˌeksɪ 'kju:ʃ(ə)n əv eɪ wɪl/ *noun* the act of making a will in the correct way. A will must be written (handwritten, printed, or written on a standard form, etc.), signed by the testator and witnessed by two witnesses in the presence of the testator.

due process /ˌdju: 'prəʊses/ *noun* a rule that the forms of law must be followed correctly

duly /'dju:li/ *adverb* **1.** properly ○ *duly authorised representative* **2.** as was expected ○ *We duly received his letter of 21st October.*

dungeon /'dʌndʒən/ *noun* an underground prison (often in a castle)

duplicating paper /'dju:plɪkeɪtɪŋ ˌpeɪpə/ *noun* a special paper to be used in a duplicating machine

duress /djʊ'res/ *noun* an illegal threat to use force on someone to make him or her do something ○ *Duress provides no defence to a charge of murder.* □ **under duress** being forced to do something ○ *They alleged they had committed the crime under duress from another defendant.* □ **he signed the confession under duress** he signed the confession because he was threatened

dutiable goods /ˌdju:tiəb(ə)l 'gʊdz/ *plural noun* goods on which a customs or excise duty has to be paid

duty /'dju:ti/ *noun* **1.** work which a person has to do ○ *It is the duty of every citizen to serve on a jury if called.* ○ *The government has a duty to protect the citizens from criminals.* **2.** official work which you have to do in a job □ **to be on duty** to be doing official work at a special time **3.** a tax which has to be paid ○ *to take the duty off alcohol* ○ *to put a duty on cigarettes* □ **goods which are liable to duty** goods on which customs or excise tax has to be paid □ **duty-paid goods** goods where the duty has been paid

duty bound /'dju:ti baʊnd/ *adjective* bound to do something because it is your duty ○ *Witnesses under oath are duty bound to tell the truth.*

duty-free /ˌdju:ti 'fri:/ *adjective, adverb* sold with no duty to be paid ○ *He bought a duty-free watch at the airport* or *he bought the watch duty-free.* □ **duty-free shop** shop at an airport or on a ship where goods can be bought without paying duty

duty of care /ˌdju:ti əv 'keə/ *noun* a legal obligation which imposes a duty on individuals not to act negligently

duty sergeant /ˌdju:ti 'sɑ:dʒənt/ *noun* a police sergeant who is on duty at a particular time

duty solicitor /ˌdju:ti sə'lɪsɪtə/ *noun* a solicitor who is on duty at a magistrates' court and can be contacted at any time by a party who is appearing in that court or by a party who has been taken to a police station under arrest or for questioning

dwelling /'dwelɪŋ/ *noun* a place where someone lives such as a house or flat ○ *The tax on dwellings has been raised.*

DWI *abbreviation US* driving while intoxicated

DX *abbreviation* document exchange

E

e. & o.e. *abbreviation* errors and omissions excepted

earmark /'ɪəˌmɑːk/ *verb* to reserve for a special purpose ○ *to earmark funds for a project* ○ *The grant is earmarked for computer systems development.*

earn /ɜːn/ *verb* **1.** to be paid money for working ○ *to earn £150 a week* ○ *Our agent in Paris certainly does not earn his commission.* **2.** to produce interest or dividends ○ *account which earns interest at 10%* ○ *What level of dividend do these shares earn?*

earnest /'ɜːnɪst/ *noun* money paid as a down payment to show one's serious intention to proceed with a contract ○ *He deposited £1,000 with the solicitor as earnest of his intention to purchase.*

earning power /'ɜːnɪŋ ˌpaʊə/ *noun* the amount of money someone should be able to earn

earnings /'ɜːnɪŋz/ *plural noun* **1.** the salary or wages, profits and dividends or interest received by an individual **2.** profits of a business

earnings per share /ˌɜːnɪŋz pə 'ʃeə/ *noun* the money earned in profit per share

earnings-related pension /ˌɜːnɪŋz rɪˌleɪtɪd 'penʃən/ *noun* a pension which is linked to the size of the salary

easement /'iːzmənt/ *noun* a right which someone (the dominant owner) has to make use of land belonging to someone else (the servient owner) for a purpose such as a path

Easter /'iːstə/ *noun* **1.** one of the four sittings of the Law Courts **2.** one of the four law terms

EC *abbreviation* European Community ○ *EC ministers met today in Brussels.* ○ *The USA is increasing its trade with the EC.*

ECB *abbreviation* European Central Bank

ecclesiastical /ɪˌkliːzi'æstɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to the church

ecclesiastical court /ɪˌkliːzi 'æstɪk(ə)l kɔːt/ *noun* a court which hears matters referring to the church

ECJ *abbreviation* European Court of Justice

economic activity /ˌiːkənɒmɪk æk 'tɪvɪti/ *noun* work

economically /ˌiːkə'nɒmɪkli/ *adverb* □ **economically active** (*in the EU*) being an active worker ○ *Economically active persons have the right to move freely from one EU country to another with their families.*

economic planning /ˌiːkənɒmɪk 'plænɪŋ/ *noun* the activity of planning the future financial state of the country for the government

economic sanctions /ˌiːkənɒmɪk 'sæŋkʃ(ə)ns/ *plural noun* restrictions on trade with a country in order to influence its political situation or in order to make its government change its policy

e-conveyancing /'iː kənˌveɪənsɪŋ/ *noun* ➧ **electronic transfer**

ecoterrorist /'iːkəʊˌterərɪst/ *noun* somebody who attacks things for ecological reasons ○ *Ecoterrorists attacked several fields of crops.*

edict /'iːdɪkt/ *noun* the public announcement of a law

editorial /ˌedɪ'tɔːriəl/ *adjective* referring to an editor

editorial board /edɪˌtɔːriəl 'bɔːd/ *noun* a group of editors (on a newspaper, etc.)

education welfare officer /ˌedjʊkeɪʃ(ə)n 'welfeə ˌɒfɪsə/ *noun* a social worker who looks after schoolchildren, and deals with attendance and family problems

EEC *abbreviation* European Economic Community

effective date /ɪ'fektɪv deɪt/ *noun* the date on which a rule or a contract starts to be applied

effective date of termination /ɪ ˌfektɪv deɪt əv ˌtɜːmɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the date on which a contract of employment expires

E-FIT™ a trademark for software that produces an image of the face of a police suspect on the basis of what a witness can remember

e.g. /'iː'dʒiː/ *abbreviation* e.g.

egalitarian /ɪˌgælɪ'teərɪən/ *noun* somebody who supports egalitarianism

EGM *abbreviation* Extraordinary General Meeting

eject /ɪ'dʒekt/ *verb* to make someone leave a property which he or she is occupying illegally

ejection /ɪ'dʒekʃən/ *noun* the action of making someone leave a property which he or she is occupying illegally

COMMENT: The ejection of someone who is legally occupying a property is an **ouster,** while removing a tenant is **eviction**.

ejectment /ɪ'dʒektmənt/ *noun* □ **action of ejectment** a court action to force someone to leave a property which he or she is occupying illegally

ejusdem generis /iːˌdʒʊsdem 'dʒenərɪs/**, eiusdem generis** /eɪ ˌjuːsdem 'dʒenərɪs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'of the same kind': a rule of legal interpretation, that when a word or phrase follows two or more other words or phrases, it is construed to be of the same type as the words or phrases which precede it

COMMENT: In the phrase **houses, flats and other buildings** other buildings can mean only other dwellings, and would not include, for example, a church.

elapse /ɪ'læps/ *verb* (*of time*) to pass ○ *Six weeks elapsed before the court order was put into effect.* ○ *We must allow sufficient time to elapse before making a complaint.*

elect /ɪ'lekt/ *verb* **1.** to choose someone by a vote ○ *A vote to elect the officers of an association.* ○ *She was elected chair of the committee.* ○ *He was first elected for this constituency in 1992.* **2.** to choose to do something ○ *He elected to stand trial by jury.*

election /ɪ'lekʃən/ *noun* **1.** the act of electing ○ *His election as president of the society.* **2.** the act of electing a representative or representatives **3.** the act of choosing a course of action ○ *The accused made his election for jury trial.* **4.** a choice by a legatee to take a benefit under a will and relinquish a claim to the estate at the same time

COMMENT: In Britain, a Parliament can only last for a maximum of five years, and a dissolution is usually called by the Prime Minister before the end of that period. The Lord Chancellor then issues a writ for the election of MPs. All British subjects (including Commonwealth and Irish citizens), are eligible to vote in British elections provided they are on the electoral register, are over 18 years of age, are sane, are not members of the House of Lords and are not serving prison sentences for serious crime. In the USA, members of the House of Representatives are elected for a two-year period. Senators are elected for six-year terms, one third of the Senate being elected every two years. The President of the USA is elected by an electoral college made up of people elected by voters in each of the states of the USA. Each state elects the same number of electors to the electoral college as it has Congressmen, plus two. This guarantees that the college is broadly representative of voters across the country. The presidential candidate with an overall majority in the college is elected president. A presidential term of office is four years, and a president can stand for re-election once.

electoral reform /ɪˌlekt(ə)rəl rɪ 'fɔːm/ *noun* the activity of changing the electoral system to make it fairer

electric chair /ɪˌlektrɪk 'tʃeə/ *noun* a chair attached to a powerful electric current, used in some states of the USA for executing criminals

electronic communication /ɪˌlektrɒnɪk kəˌmjuːnɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a message which is sent from one person to another by telephone or by other electronic means

electronic conveyancing /ɪˌlektrɒnɪk kən'veɪənsɪŋ/ *noun* ◗ **electronic transfer**

electronic signature /ɪˌlektrɒnɪk 'sɪgnɪtʃə/ *noun* electronic text or symbols attached to a document sent by email which acts in a similar way to a handwritten signature, in that they prove the authenticity of the document

electronic surveillance /ɪˌlektrɒnɪk sə'veɪləns/ *noun* surveillance using hidden microphones, cameras, etc.

electronic transfer /ɪˌlektrɒnɪk 'trænsfɜː/ *noun* the transfer of interests in land by electronic methods rather than paper documents

eleemosynary /ˌeliː'mɒzɪnəri/ *adjective* referring to charity

eligible /'elɪdʒɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* person who can be chosen ○ *She is eligible for re-election.*

E list /'iː lɪst/ *noun* a list of the names of prisoners who frequently try to escape from prison

embargo /ɪm'bɑːgəʊ/ *noun* a government order which stops a type of trade □ **to lay, put an embargo on trade with a country** to say that trade with a country must not take place □ **to lift an embargo** to allow trade to start again □ **to be under an embargo** to be forbidden ■ *verb* not to allow something to take place ○ *The government has embargoed trade with the Eastern countries.* □ **the press release was embargoed until 1st January** the information in the release could not be published until 1st January

embezzle /ɪm'bez(ə)l/ *verb* to use illegally or steal money which you are responsible for as part of your work ○ *He was sent to prison for six months for embezzling his clients' money.*

embezzlement /ɪm'bez(ə)lmənt/ *noun* the act of embezzling ○ *He was sent to prison for six months for embezzlement.*

embezzler /ɪm'bez(ə)lə/ *noun* somebody who embezzles

emblements /'emblәmənts/ *plural noun* vegetable products which come from farming

embracery /ɪm'breɪs(ə)ri/ *noun* the offence of corruptly seeking to influence jurors

emergency powers /ɪˌmɜːdʒənsi 'paʊəs/ *plural noun* special powers granted by law to a government or to a minister to deal with an emergency, usually without going through the usual democratic processes

emergency protection order /ɪˌmɜːdʒənsi prə'tekʃ(ə)n ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a court order, established under the Children's Act 1989, which gives a local authority or the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) the right to remove a child from the care of its parents for a period of eight days, with the right to apply for a seven-day extension. An order will only be granted if the court is satisfied that there is reasonable cause to believe that the child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm unless the order is made. ◗ **parental responsibility** (NOTE: Such an order gives the local authority parental responsibility for the child, allowing decisions to be made in relation to its welfare.)

emergency services /ɪ'mɜːdʒənsi ˌsɜːvɪsɪz/ *plural noun* police, fire and ambulance services, which are ready for action if an emergency arises

emigrant /'emɪgrənt/ *noun* somebody who emigrates. Compare **immigrant**

emigrate /'emɪgreɪt/ *verb* to go to another country to live permanently. Compare **immigrate**

emigration /ˌemɪ'greɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of leaving a country to go to live permanently in another country. Compare **immigration**

eminent domain /ˌemɪnənt dəʊ 'meɪn/ *noun* the right of the state to appropriate private property for public use

emoluments /ɪ'mɒljʊmənts/ *plural noun* wages, salaries, fees or any monetary benefit from an employment (*formal or humorous, not technical*)

empanel /ɪm'pæn(ə)l/ *verb* □ **to empanel a jury** to choose and swear in jurors

employed advocate /ɪmˌplɔɪd 'ædvəkət/ *noun* a person employed to plead in court such as a Crown Prosecutor

employee /ɪm'plɔɪiː/ *noun* a person who is employed by someone else ○ *Employees of the firm are eligible to join a profit-sharing scheme.* ○ *Relations between management and employees have improved.* ○ *The company has decided to take on new employees.*

employer /ɪm'plɔɪə/ *noun* a person or company which has employees and pays them

employer's contribution /ɪm ˌplɔɪəz ˌkɒntrɪ'bjuːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* money paid by the employer towards an employee's pension

employer's liability /ɪmˌplɔɪəz laɪə 'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the legal responsibility of an employer when employees are subject to accidents due to negligence on the part of the employer

employers' organisation /ɪm 'plɔɪəz ˌɔːgənaɪzeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun US* a group of employers with similar interests

employment /ɪm'plɔɪmənt/ *noun* a contractual relationship between an employer and his or her employees

Employment Appeal Tribunal /ɪm ˌplɔɪmənt ə'piːl traɪˌbjuːn(ə)l/ *noun* a court which hears appeals from employment tribunals

employment bureau /ɪm'plɔɪmənt ˌbjʊərəʊ/ *noun* an office which finds jobs for people

employment law /ɪm'plɔɪmənt ˌbjʊərəʊ/ *noun* law referring to the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees

employment office /ɪm'plɔɪmənt ˌɒfɪs/ *noun* an office which finds jobs for people

employment tribunal /ɪm'plɔɪmənt traɪˌbjuːnəl/ *noun* a body responsible for hearing work-related complaints as specified by statute. The panel hearing each case consists of a legally qualified chairperson and two independent lay people who have experience of employment issues. Decisions need to be enforced by a separate application to the court. Former name **industrial tribunal**

empower /ɪm'paʊə/ *verb* to give someone the power to do something ○ *The agent is empowered to sell the property.* ○ *She was empowered by the company to sign the contract.* ○ *A constable is empowered to arrest a person whom he suspects of having committed an offence.*

emptor /'emptə/ ➧ **caveat emptor**

enact /ɪn'ækt/ *verb* to make a law

enacting clause /ɪn'æktɪŋ klɔːz/ *noun* the first clause in a bill or act, starting with the words 'be it enacted that', which makes the act lawful

enactment /ɪ'næktmənt/ *noun* **1.** the action of making a law **2.** an Act of Parliament

enclosure /ɪn'kləʊʒə/ *noun* **1.** a document enclosed with a letter **2.** the act of removing land from common use by putting fences round it

encroachment /ɪn'krəʊtʃmənt/ *noun* illegally taking over someone's property little by little

encrypt /ɪn'krɪpt/ *verb* to take ordinary text and convert it to a series of figures or letters which make it unable to be read without a special key

encryption /ɪn'krɪpʃən/ *noun* the action of encrypting text

encumbrance /ɪn'kʌmbrəns/ *noun* a liability such as a mortgage or charge which is attached usually to a property or piece of land

endanger /ɪn'deɪndʒə/ *verb* to put someone in danger of being killed or hurt □ **endangering railway passengers**, **endangering life at sea, criminal damage endangering life** notifiable offences where human life is put at risk

endorse /ɪn'dɔːs/ *verb* **1.** to agree with ○ *The court endorsed counsel's view.* **2.** □ **to endorse a bill**, **a cheque** to sign a bill or a cheque on the back to make it payable to someone else **3.** to make a note on a driving licence that the holder has been convicted of a traffic offence **4.** to write a summary of the contents of a legal document on the outside of the folded document

endorsee /ˌendɔːˈsiː/ *noun* a person in whose favour a bill or a cheque is endorsed

endorsement /ɪnˈdɔːsmənt/ *noun* **1.** the act of endorsing **2.** a signature on a document which endorses it **3.** a summary of a legal document noted on the outside of the folded document **4.** a note on an insurance policy which adds conditions to the policy **5.** a note on a driving licence to show that the holder has been convicted of a traffic offence. ◊ **totting up**

endorser /ɪnˈdɔːsə/ *noun* somebody who endorses a bill or cheque

endowment /ɪnˈdaʊmənt/ *noun* a gift of money to provide a regular income

endowment assurance /ɪn ˈdaʊmənt əˌʃʊərəns/ *noun* an assurance policy where a sum of money is paid to the insured person on a specific date, or to the heirs if he or she dies

endowment mortgage /ɪn ˈdaʊmənt ˌmɔːgɪdʒ/ *noun* a mortgage backed by an endowment policy

end user /ˌend ˈjuːzə/ *noun* somebody who actually uses a product

enforce /ɪnˈfɔːs/ *verb* to make sure something is done or is obeyed ○ *to enforce the terms of a contract* □ **to enforce a debt** to make sure a debt is paid

enforceable /ɪnˈfɔːsəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being possible to enforce

enforcement /ɪnˈfɔːsmənt/ *noun* **1.** the process of making sure that something is obeyed ○ *Enforcement of the terms of a contract.* **2.** (*in the EU*) the power to force someone to comply with the law

enforcement notice /ɪnˈfɔːsmənt ˌnəʊtɪs/ *noun* a notice issued by a local planning authority which outlines the steps that need to be taken within a specified time to stop or repair a breach of planning control

enforcement proceedings /ɪn ˌfɔːsmənt prəˈsiːdɪŋz/ *plural noun* legal proceedings used by the Commission for ensure that Member States fulfil their treaty obligations

enfranchisement /ɪn ˈfræntʃaɪzmənt/ *noun* the action of giving someone a vote

engage /ɪnˈgeɪdʒ/ *verb* **1.** □ **to engage someone to do something** to bind someone contractually to do something ○ *The contract engages the company to purchase minimum annual quantities of goods.* **2.** □ **to be engaged in** to be busy with ○ *He is engaged in work on computers.* ○ *The company is engaged in trade with Africa.*

engross /ɪnˈgrəʊs/ *verb* to draw up a legal document in its final form ready for signature

engrossment /ɪnˈgrəʊsmənt/ *noun* **1.** drawing up of a legal document in its final form **2.** a legal document in its final form

engrossment paper /ɪnˈgrəʊsmənt ˌpeɪpə/ *noun* a thick heavy paper on which court documents are engrossed

enjoin /ɪnˈdʒɔɪn/ *verb* to order someone to do something

enjoyment /ɪnˈdʒɔɪmənt/ *noun* □ **quiet enjoyment of land** right of an occupier to occupy a property under a tenancy without anyone interfering with that right

enquire /ɪŋˈkwaɪə/**, enquiry** another spelling of **inquire**

entail /ɪnˈteɪl/ *noun* an interest in land where the land is given to another person and the heirs of his or her body, but reverts to the donor when the donee and heirs have all died. ◊ **fee tail**

entente /ɒnˈtɒnt/ *noun* an agreement between two countries or groups, used especially of the 'Entente Cordiale' between Britain and France in 1904

enter /ˈentə/ ◇ **to enter into 1.** to begin to do something ○ *to enter into relations with someone* **2.** to agree to do something ○ *to enter into negotiations with a foreign government* ○ *to enter into a partnership with a friend* ○ *to enter into an agreement* or *a contract*

entering /ˈentərɪŋ/ *noun* the act of writing items in a record

entering of appearance /ˌentərɪŋ əv əˈpɪərəns/ *noun* same as **entry of appearance**

entertain /ˌentəˈteɪn/ *verb* to be ready to consider a proposal ○ *The judge will not entertain any proposal from the prosecution to delay the start of the hearing.*

entertainment expenses /ˌentə 'teɪnmənt ɪkˌspensɪz/ *plural noun* money spent on giving meals to business visitors

entice /ɪn'taɪs/ *verb* to try to persuade someone to do something by offering money ○ *They tried to entice the managers to join the new company.*

enticement /ɪn'taɪsmənt/ *noun* the act of trying to persuade someone to do something, especially trying to persuade an employee to leave a job or a wife to leave her husband

entitle /ɪn'taɪt(ə)l/ *verb* to give someone the right to something □ **he is entitled to four weeks' holiday** he has the right to take four weeks' holiday

entitlement /ɪn'taɪt(ə)lmənt/ *noun* something to which you are entitled

entity /'entɪti/ *noun* something which exists in law ○ *His private company is a separate entity.*

entrapment /ɪn'træpmənt/ *noun* the act of enticing someone to commit a crime so as to be able to arrest him or her, by someone in authority such as a police officer (NOTE: It is not a defence in British law, but exists in US law.)

entrenched /ɪn'trentʃt/ *adjective* (*of ideas and practices*) existing in the same way for a long time and very difficult to change ○ *The government's entrenched position on employees' rights.*

entrenched clause /ɪn'trentʃt klɔːz/ *noun* a clause in a constitution which stipulates that it cannot be amended except by an extraordinary process

entryism /'entriˌɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a way of taking control of a political party or elected body, where extremists join or are elected and are then able to take control because they are more numerous or more active than other members

entryist /'entrɪɪst/ *adjective* referring to entryism ○ *The party leader condemned entryist techniques.*

entry of appearance /ˌentri əv ə 'pɪərəns/ *noun* the lodging of a document in court by the defendant to confirm his or her intention to defend an action

entry of judgment /ˌentri əv 'dʒʌdʒmənt/ *noun* the act of recording the judgment of a court in the official records

entry permit /ˌentri pə'mɪt/ *noun* a document allowing someone to enter a country

entry visa /'entri ˌviːzə/ *noun* a visa allowing someone to enter a country

environmental health /ɪn ˌvaɪrənment(ə)l 'helθ/ *noun* the health of the public as a whole

environmental pollution /ɪn ˌvaɪrənment(ə)l pə'luːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the polluting of the environment

equalise /'iːkwəˌlaɪz/, **equalize** /'iːkwəlaɪz/ *verb* to make equal ○ *to equalise dividends*

equality /ɪ'kwɒlɪti/ *noun* the condition where all citizens are equal, have equal rights and are treated equally by the state

equality of access /ɪˌkwɒlɪti əv 'ækses/ *noun* a situation in which everyone must be given the same opportunities for education, employment and other activities

equality of opportunity /ɪˌkwɒlɪti əv ɒpə'tjuːnɪti/ *noun* a situation in which everyone has the same opportunities to receive education, employment, election, etc.

equality of treatment /ɪˌkwɒlɪti əv 'triːtmənt/ *noun* **1.** a situation in which everyone receives the same fair treatment in education, at work and in the community **2.** a right of workers who are nationals of other Member States of the European Union to be treated equally to nationals of the country where they work

Equal Opportunities Commission /ˌiːkwəl ɒpə'tjuːnɪtiz kəˌmɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an official committee set up to make sure that men and women have equal chances of employment and to remove discrimination between the sexes (NOTE: The US term is **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission**.)

equal opportunities programme /ˌiːkwəl ɒpə'tjuːnɪtiz ˌprəʊgræm/ *noun* a programme to avoid discrimination in employment (NOTE: The US term is **affirmative action program**.)

equal pay /ˌiːkwəl 'peɪ/ *noun* the situation in which the same salary is paid for the same type of work regardless of

whether it is done by, e.g., men or women

equitable /'ekwɪtəb(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** fair and just **2.** referring to equity

equitable interests /ˌekwɪtəb(ə)l 'ɪntrəsts/ *plural noun* interests in property which are recognised separately from rights given by law

equitable jurisdiction /ˌekwɪtəb(ə)l ˌdʒʊərɪs'dɪkʃən/ *noun* the power of a court to enforce a person's rights

equitable lien /ˌekwɪtəb(ə)l 'liːən/ *noun* a right of someone to hold property which legally he or she does not own until the owner pays money due

equitable mortgage /ˌekwɪtəb(ə)l 'mɔːgɪdʒ/ *noun* a mortgage which does not give the mortgagee a legal estate in the land mortgaged

equity /'ekwɪti/ *noun* **1.** a system of British law which developed in parallel with the common law to make the common law fairer, summarised in the maxim 'equity does not suffer a wrong to be without a remedy' **2.** the right to receive dividends as part of the profit of a company in which you own shares

equity of redemption /ˌekwɪti əv rɪ 'dempʃən/ *noun* the right of a mortgagor to redeem the estate by paying off the principal and interest

equivocal /ɪ'kwɪvək(ə)l/ *adjective* not clearly expressed, or ambiguous ○ *The court took the view that the defendant's plea was equivocal.*

error /'erə/ *noun* a mistake ○ *He made an error in calculating the total.* ○ *The secretary must have made a typing error.* □ **errors and omissions excepted** words written on an invoice to show that the company has no responsibility for mistakes in the invoice. Abbreviation **e. & o.e.**

error rate /'erə reɪt/ *noun* the number of mistakes per thousand entries or per page

escalate /'eskəleɪt/ *verb* to increase at a constant rate

escalation of prices /ˌeskə'leɪʃ(ə)n əv praɪss/ *noun US* a constant increase in prices

escalator clause /'eskəleɪtə klɔːz/ *noun* a clause in a contract allowing for regular price increases because of increased costs

escape /ɪ'skeɪp/ *verb* **1.** to get away from a place of detention ○ *Three prisoners escaped by climbing over the wall.* **2.** to avoid something that is unpleasant ○ *He escaped with a reprimand.* ○ *They narrowly escaped prosecution.* ○ *We escaped the need to reveal sensitive details publicly.* ■ *noun* an act of getting away from a place of detention □ **to make your escape** to leave or escape from somewhere

escape clause /ɪ'skeɪp klɔːz/ *noun* a clause in a contract which allows one of the parties to avoid carrying out the terms of the contract under some conditions without penalty

escrow /'eskrəʊ/ *noun* a deed which the parties to it deliver to an independent person who hands it over only when specific conditions have been fulfilled □ **in escrow** held in safe keeping by a third party □ **document held in escrow** document given to a third party to keep and to pass on to someone when, e.g., money has been paid

escrow account /'eskrəʊ əˌkaʊnt/ *noun US* an account where money is held until something happens such as a contract being signed or goods being delivered

espionage /'espiənɑːʒ/ *noun* the activity of spying

Esq. *noun* **1.** sometimes written after the name of a man instead of using 'Mr' **2.** *US* sometimes written after the name of a male or female lawyer ▸ full form **Esquire**

essence of contract /ˌes(ə)ns əv 'kɒntrækt/ *noun* a fundamental term of a contract. Also called **condition of contract**

establish /ɪ'stæblɪʃ/ *verb* **1.** to set up, to make or to open something ○ *The company has established a branch in Australia.* ○ *The business was established in Scotland in 1823.* □ **to establish oneself in business** to become successful in a new business **2.** to decide what is correct or true ○ *The police are trying to establish his movements on the night of the*

murder. ○ *It is an established fact that the car could not have been used because it was out of petrol.*

established post /ɪ'stæblɪʃt pəʊst/ *noun* a permanent post in the civil service or similar organisation

established use /ɪ'stæblɪʃt juːz/ *noun* the use of land for a specific purpose which is recognised by a local authority because the land has been used for this purpose for some time

establishment /ɪ'stæblɪʃmənt/ *noun* □ **the Establishment** powerful and important people who run the country and its government

establishment charges /ɪ'stæblɪʃmənt ˌtʃɑːdʒɪz/ *plural noun* in a company's accounts, the cost of staff and property

establishment officer /ɪ ˌstæblɪʃmənt 'ɒfɪsə/ *noun* a civil servant in charge of personnel in a government department

estate /ɪ'steɪt/ *noun* **1.** an interest in or right to hold and occupy land **2.** all the property that is owned by a person, especially a person who has recently died ○ *His estate was valued at £100,000* or *he left estate valued at £100,000.* □ **estate duty**, **estate tax** *US* tax on property left by a person now dead

estate agency /ɪ'steɪt ˌeɪdʒənsi/ *noun* an office which arranges for the sale of property

estate agent /ɪ'steɪt ˌeɪdʒənt/ *noun* the person in charge of an estate agency

estate duty /ɪ'steɪt ˌdjuːti/ *noun US* a tax paid on the property left by a dead person

estop /ə'stɒp/ *verb* to stop someone doing something, e.g. exercising a right

estoppel /ɪ'stɒp(ə)l/ *noun* a rule of evidence whereby someone is prevented from denying or asserting a fact in legal proceedings

estoppel by conduct /ɪˌstɒp(ə)l baɪ 'kɒndʌkt/ *noun* the rule that no one can deny things which he or she has done or failed to do which have had an effect on other persons' actions if that person has acted in a way which relied on the others' behaviour

estoppel by deed /ɪˌstɒp(ə)l baɪ 'diːd/ *noun* the rule that a person cannot deny having done something which is recorded in a deed

estoppel of record /ɪˌstɒp(ə)l əv 'rekɔːd/ *noun* the rule that a person cannot reopen a matter which has already been decided by a court

estovers /ɪ'stəʊvəz/ *plural noun* right of a tenant to take wood and timber from land which he or she rents

estreat /ɪ'striːt/ *verb* to get a copy of a record of bail or a fine awarded by a court

estreated recognizance /ɪˌstriːtɪd rɪ'kɒgnɪz(ə)ns/ *noun* recognisance which is forfeited because the person making it has not come to court

et al. /et 'æl/**, et alia** *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'and others' or 'and other things'

ethnic /'eθnɪk/ *adjective* referring to a specific nation or race

ethnic group /'eθnɪk gruːp/ *noun* a group of people with the same background and culture, different from those of other groups

ethnic minority /ˌeθnɪk maɪ'nɒrɪti/ *noun* a group of people of one race in a country where most people are of another race

etiquette /'etɪket/ *noun* the set of rules governing the way people should behave, such as the way in which a solicitor or barrister behaves towards clients in court

et seq., et sequentes *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'and the following'

euro /'jʊərəʊ/ *noun* the main currency unit of the European Union, used as local currency in most Member States since 2002

Euro-constituency /ˌjʊərəʊ kən 'stɪtjʊənsi/ *noun* a constituency which elects an MEP to the European Parliament

Eurocrat /'jʊərəʊkræt/ *noun* a bureaucrat working in the European Union or the European Parliament (*informal*)

European Atomic Energy Community Treaty /ˌjʊərəpiːən əˌtɒmɪk ˌenədʒi kəˌmjuːnəti 'triːti/ *noun* a treaty established in 1957 to develop nu-

clear energy within the Common Market. Abbreviation **EURATOM**

European Commission /ˌjʊərəpiːən kəˈmɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the main executive body of the European Union, made up of members nominated by each Member State

European Communities /ˌjʊərəpiːən kəˈmjuːnɪtiz/ *plural noun* same as **European Community**

European Community /ˌjʊərəpiːən kəˈmjuːnɪti/ *noun* the collective body formed by the merger in 1967 of the administrative networks of the European Atomic Energy Community, the European Coal and Steel Community, and the European Economic Community. Abbreviation **EC**. Also called **European Communities** (NOTE: The Treaty on European Union made it the official title of the European Economic Community (EEC).)

European Convention on Human Rights /ˌjʊərəpiːən kənˌvenʃ(ə)n ɒn ˌhjuːmən ˈraɪts/ *noun* a convention signed by all members of the Council of Europe covering the rights of all its citizens. The key provisions are now incorporated by the Human Rights Act 1998, which came into force in the UK in October 2000.

COMMENT: The convention recognises property rights, religious rights, the right of citizens to privacy, the due process of law, the principle of legal review. Note that the European Convention on Human Rights does not form part of English law.

European Council /ˌjʊərəpiːən ˈkaʊns(ə)l/ *noun* a group formed by the heads of government of the Member States of the European Union. The president of the European Council is the head of the Member State which is currently president of the Council of Ministers. (NOTE: Do not confuse with the **Council of the European Union**.)

European Court of Human Rights /ˌjʊərəpiːən kɔːt əv ˌhjuːmən ˈraɪts/ *noun* a court considering the rights of citizens of states which are parties to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights. ◊ **European Convention on Human Rights** (NOTE: Its formal name is the **European Court for the Protection of Human Rights**.)

European Court of Justice /ˌjʊərəpiːən ˌkɔːt əv ˈdʒʌstɪs/ *noun* a court set up to see that the principles of law as laid out in the Treaty of Rome are observed and applied correctly in the European Union. The court is responsible for settling disputes relating to European Community Law, and also acting as a last Court of Appeal against judgments in individual Member States. Abbreviation **ECJ**. Also called **Court of Justice of the European Communities**

COMMENT: The ECJ has 15 judges and 8 Advocates General; these are appointed by the governments of Member States for a period of six years. The judges come from all the Member States, and bring with them the legal traditions of each state. The court can either meet as a full court, or in chambers where only two or three judges are present. The court normally conducts its business in French, though if an action is brought before the court by or against a Member State, that Member State can choose the language in which the case will be heard. The Court can hear actions against institutions, actions brought either by the Commission or by a Member State against another Member State. The Court also acts as Court of Appeal for appeals from the Court of First Instance. The court also interprets legislation and as such acts in a semi-legislative capacity.

European Parliament /ˌjʊərəpiːən ˈpɑːləmənt/ *noun* the parliament of members elected in each Member State of the European Union, representing the peoples of each Member State

COMMENT: The members of the European Parliament (**MEPs**) are elected by constituencies in the 25 Member States. The number of MEPs per country depends on the size of the state they come from: the largest member state, Germany, has 99 MEPs, and the smallest, Luxembourg, has only 6. The European Parliament has the duty to supervise the working of the European Commission, and can if necessary, decide to demand the resignation of the entire Commission, although it cannot demand the resignation of an individual commissioner. The Parliament takes part in making the legislation of the EU, especially by

advising on new legislation being proposed by the Commission.

European Union /ˌjʊərəpiːən 'juːniən/ *noun* a group of European nations that form a single economic community and have agreed on social and political cooperation (NOTE: It was established by the Treaty on European Union in 1992 and increased to 25 members in 2004.)

euthanasia /ˌjuːθə'neɪziə/ *noun* the act of killing a very sick or very old person to end to his or her suffering

evade /ɪ'veɪd/ *verb* to try to avoid something □ **to evade tax** to try illegally to avoid paying tax

evasion /ɪ'veɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the practice of avoiding something that you should do **2.** something said in order to hide the truth ○ *His account was full of lies and evasions.*

evasive /ɪ'veɪsɪv/ *adjective* trying to avoid □ **to give evasive answers** to try to avoid answering questions directly

evict /ɪ'vɪkt/ *verb* to force someone, especially a tenant to leave a property ○ *All the tenants were evicted by the new landlords.*

eviction /ɪ'vɪkʃən/ *noun* the act of forcing someone, especially a tenant, to leave a property

evidence /'evɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* a written or spoken statement of facts which helps to prove or disprove something at a trial ○ *All the evidence points to arson.* □ **the secretary gave evidence against her former employer** the secretary was a witness, and her statement suggested that her former employer was guilty □ **to plant evidence** to put items at the scene of a crime after the crime has taken place, so that a person is incriminated and can be arrested □ **to turn Queen's evidence**, **to turn state's evidence** *US* to confess to a crime and then act as witness against the other criminals involved, in the hope of getting a lighter sentence ■ *verb* to show ○ *the lack of good will, as evidenced by the defendant's behaviour in the witness stand*

evidence in chief /ˌevɪd(ə)ns ɪn 'tʃiːf/ *noun* the questioning of a witness by the party who called them. Opposite **cross-examination** (NOTE: The opposite is **cross-examination**.)

ex /eks/ *noun* a former married or unmarried partner ○ *still in contact with her ex* ■ *preposition* out of, or from ■ *prefix* **1.** former ○ *an ex-convict* ○ *She claimed maintenance from her ex-husband.* **2.** not, or without

examination /ɪgˌzæmɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the process of asking someone questions to find out facts, e.g. the questioning of a prisoner by a magistrate. ◊ **cross-examination 2.** an act looking at something very carefully to see if it is acceptable

examination in chief /ɪgˌzæmɪ 'neɪʃ(ə)n ɪn tʃiːf/ *noun* same as **direct examination**

examine /ɪg'zæmɪn/ *verb* to look at someone or something very carefully to see if it can be accepted ○ *The customs officials asked to examine the inside of the car.* ○ *The police are examining the papers from the managing director's safe.*

examining justice /ɪgˌzæmɪnə 'dʒʌstɪs/ *noun* a magistrate who hears a case when it is presented for the first time, and decides if there should be a prosecution

excepted /ɪk'septɪd/ *adverb* not including

excepted persons /ɪkˌseptɪd 'pɜːs(ə)ns/ *plural noun* types of employees listed in an insurance policy as not being covered by the insurance

exception /ɪk'sepʃən/ *noun* **1.** something which is not included with others ○ *All the accused were acquitted with the exception of Jones who was sent to prison for three months.* **2.** an objection raised to the ruling of a judge □ **to take exception to something** to object to something, to protest against something ○ *Counsel for the defence took exception to the witness' remarks.* ○ *He has taken exception to the reports of the trial in the newspapers.*

exceptional items /ɪkˌsepʃən(ə)l 'aɪtəmz/ *plural noun* items in a balance sheet which do not appear there each year

excess /ɪk'ses/ *noun* **1.** the amount which is more than what is allowed □ **excess alcohol in the blood** more alcohol in the blood than a driver is permitted to have □ **in excess of** above, more than ○ *quantities in excess of twenty-five kilos* **2.** the amount to be paid by the insured as part of any claim made under the terms of an insurance policy ○ *She has to pay a £50 excess, and the damage came to over £1,000.*

excess fare /'ekses feə/ *noun* an extra fare to be paid in some circumstances such as when travelling first class on a train with a second class ticket

excess of jurisdiction /ɪkˌses əv ˌdʒʊərɪs'dɪkʃən/ *noun* a case where a judge or magistrate has exceeded his or her powers

excess profits /ˌekses 'prɒfɪts/ *plural noun* profits which are more than is considered to be normal

excess profits tax /ˌekses 'prɒfɪts tæks/ *noun* a tax on profits which are higher than what is thought to be normal

exchange /ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ/ *noun* □ **rate of exchange**, **exchange rate** price at which one currency is exchanged for another ■ *verb* **1.** □ **to exchange an article for another** to give one thing in place of something else **2.** □ **to exchange contracts** to hand over a contract when buying or selling a property (done by both buyer and seller at the same time)

exchange controls /ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ kənˌtrəʊlz/ *plural noun* government restrictions on changing the local currency into foreign currency ○ *The government imposed exchange controls to stop the rush to buy dollars.*

Exchange Equalization Account /ɪksˌtʃeɪndʒ ˌiːkwəlaɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n əˌkaʊnt/ *noun* an account with the Bank of England used by the government when buying or selling foreign currency to influence the exchange rate for the pound

exchange of contracts /ɪksˌtʃeɪndʒ əv 'kɒntrækts/ *noun* a point in the conveyance of a property when the solicitors for the buyer and seller hand over the contract of sale which then becomes binding

exchange premium /ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ ˌpriːmiəm/ *noun* an extra cost above the normal rate for buying foreign currency ○ *The dollar is at a premium.*

exchanger /ɪks'tʃeɪndʒə/ *noun* somebody who buys and sells foreign currency

exchange transaction /ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ trænˌzækʃən/ *noun* the purchase or sale of foreign currency

Exchequer /ɪks'tʃekə/ *noun* a fund of all the money received by the government of the UK from taxes and other revenues. ◊ **Chancellor**

excise /ɪk'saɪz/ *verb* to cut out ○ *The chairman ordered the remarks to be excised from the official record.*

excise duty /'eksaɪz ˌdjuːti/, **excise tax** /'ɪksaɪz tæks/ *noun* a tax on the sale of goods such as alcohol and petrol which are produced in the country, or a tax on imports where the duty was not paid on entry into the country

exciseman /'eksaɪzmæn/ *noun* somebody who works in the Excise Department

exclude /ɪk'skluːd/ *verb* **1.** to keep something out, or not include something ○ *The right to enter can be excluded to a EU citizen on the grounds of danger to public health or safety.* **2.** to remove someone from a group ○ *He complained about being excluded from the short list.* **3.** to officially tell a student that they cannot attend a school, either temporarily or permanently, because of very bad behaviour

excluding /ɪk'skluːdɪŋ/ *preposition* not including ○ *The regulations apply to members of the public, excluding those serving in the emergency services.* □ **not excluding** including ○ *Government servants, not excluding judges, are covered by the Bill.*

exclusion /ɪk'skluːʒ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** something which is not included **2.** a situation where someone is prevented from entering or taking part in something □ **to the exclusion of** not including, without including **3.** the situation where a student is officially prevented from attending school, either temporarily or permanently, because of very bad behaviour □ **to**

the exclusion of focusing only on one particular thing or person and ignoring anything or anyone else ○ *His wife complained he had spent all his time working to the exclusion of family life.*

exclusion clause /ɪk'skluːʒ(ə)n klɔːz/ *noun* a clause in an insurance policy or contract which says which items are not covered by the policy and gives details of circumstances in which the insurance company will refuse to pay

exclusion order /ɪk,skluːʒ(ə)n 'ɔːdə/ *noun* formerly, a court order in matrimonial proceedings which stopped a wife or husband from going into the matrimonial home (NOTE: It is now replaced by an 'occupation order'.)

exclusion zone /ɪk'skluːʒn ˌzəʊn/ *noun* an area, usually an area of sea near a country, which the military forces of other countries are not allowed to enter

exclusive /ɪk'skluːsɪv/ *adjective* **1.** □ **exclusive right to market a product** right to be the only person to market the product **2.** □ **exclusive of** not including

exclusive agreement /ɪk,skluːsɪv ə 'griːmənt/ *noun* an agreement where a person or firm is made sole agent for a product in a market

exclusive licence /ɪk,skluːsɪv 'laɪs(ə)ns/ *noun* a licence where the licensee is the only person to be able to enjoy the licence

exclusivity /ˌeksklu:'sɪvɪtɪ/ *noun* the exclusive right to market a product

ex-con /eks 'kɒn/ *noun* same as **ex-convict** (*informal*)

ex-convict /eks 'kɒnvɪkt/ *noun* someone who was imprisoned for a crime but has served their sentence and been released

ex-directory number /ˌeks daɪ ˌrektri 'nʌmbə/ *noun* a telephone number which is not printed in the list of people having telephone numbers

execute /'eksɪˌkjuːt/ *verb* **1.** to carry out an order **2.** to carry out (the terms of a contract) **3.** to seal (a deed) **4.** to kill someone who has been sentenced to death by a court ○ *He was executed by firing squad.*

executed consideration /ˌeksɪkjuːtɪd kənˌsɪdə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a consideration where one party has made a promise in exchange for which the other party has done something for him or her

execution /ˌeksɪ'kjuːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the carrying out of a court order or of the terms of a contract **2.** the seizure and sale of goods belonging to a debtor **3.** the killing of someone who has been sentenced to death by a court

executioner /ˌeksɪ'kjuːʃ(ə)nə/ *noun* somebody who executes people who have been sentenced to death

executive /ɪg'zekjʊtɪv/ *adjective* **1.** putting decisions into action **2.** referring to the branch of government which puts laws into effect **3.** *US* referring to the President of the USA as head of government ■ *noun* a person such as a manager or director who takes decisions in an organisation ◇ **the Executive** *US* **1.** section of a government which puts into effect the laws passed by Parliament **2.** the president

executive clemency /ɪgˌzekjʊtɪv 'kleməns/ *noun US* a pardon granted by the President

executive detention /ɪgˌzekjʊtɪv dɪ'tenʃən/ *noun* the act of holding suspected terrorists, illegal immigrants, etc., in custody for a limited period

executive director /ɪgˌzekjʊtɪv daɪ 'rektə/ *noun* a director who actually works full-time in the company

executive document /ɪgˌzekjʊtɪv ˌdɒkjʊ'ment/ *noun US* a document such as a treaty sent by the President of the USA to the Senate for ratification

executive order /ɪgˌzekjʊtɪv 'ɔːdə/ *noun US* an order by the president of the USA or of a state governor

executive power /ɪgˌzekjʊtɪv 'paʊə/ *noun* the right to act as director or to put decisions into action

executive privilege /ɪgˌzekjʊtɪv 'prɪvɪlɪdʒ/ *noun US* the privilege of the President of the USA not to reveal matters which he or she considers secret

executor /ɪg'zekjʊtə/ *noun* someone who is appointed by a person making his or her will who will see that the terms of the will are carried out ○ *He was named executor of his brother's will.*

executorship /ɪg'zekjʊtəʃɪp/ *noun* the position of being an executor

executory /ɪg'zekjʊt(ə)ri/ *adjective* still being carried out

executory consideration /ɪg ˌzekjʊt(ə)ri kənˌsɪdə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a consideration where one party makes a promise in exchange for a counter-promise from the other party

exemplary /ɪg'zempləri/ *adjective* being so good that it serves as an example to others ○ *Her conduct in the case was exemplary.*

exemplary damages /ɪgˌzempləri 'dæmɪdʒɪz/ *plural noun* an extra award of damages which aims to punish the defendant's actions in addition to compensating the harm done to the claimant

exemplary sentence /ɪgˌzempləri 'sentəns/ *noun* a particularly harsh sentence which aims at deterring others from committing the same type of crime

exempt /ɪg'zempt/ *adjective* **1.** not covered by a law □ **exempt from tax**, **tax-exempt** not required to pay tax **2.** not forced to obey a law ■ *verb* to free something from having tax paid on it, or free someone from having to pay tax ○ *Non profit-making organisations are exempted from tax.* ○ *Food is exempted from sales tax.* ○ *The government exempted trusts from tax.*

exempt information /ɪgˌzempt ˌɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun US* information which may be kept secret from the public because if it were disclosed it might be unfair to an individual or harmful to the authorities ○ *The council resolved that the press and public be excluded for item 10 as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information.*

exemption /ɪg'zempʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of exempting something from a contract or from a tax ○ *The Commission is the only body which can grant exemptions from Community competition law.* □ **exemption from tax**, **tax exemption** the situation of not being required to pay tax ○ *as a non profit-making organization you can claim tax exemption*

exemption clause /ɪg'zempʃ(ə)n klɔːz/ *noun* a clause in a contract exempting a party from some liabilities

exempt supplies /ɪgˌzempt sə 'plaɪz/ *plural noun* sales of goods or services on which VAT does not have to be paid

exercise /'eksəsaɪz/ *noun* the use of powers, skills or official rights ○ *A court can give directions to a local authority as to the exercise of its powers in relation to children in care.* ■ *verb* to use or to put something into practice □ **to exercise your discretion** to decide on which of several possible ways to act ○ *The magistrates exercised their discretion and let the accused off with a suspended sentence.* □ **to exercise an option** to carry out something which you have been given the power to do ○ *He exercised his option to acquire sole marketing rights for the product.* ○ *Not many shareholders exercised their option to buy the new issue of shares.*

ex gratia /ˌeks 'greɪʃə/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'as a favour' □ **an ex gratia payment** payment made as a gift, with no obligations

exhibit /ɪg'zɪbɪt/ *noun* any object which is shown as evidence to a court

exile /'eksaɪl/ *noun* **1.** the punishment of being sent to live in another country ○ *The ten members of the opposition party were sent into exile.* **2.** somebody who has been sent to live in another country as a punishment ■ *verb* to send someone to live in another country as a punishment ○ *He was exiled for life.* ○ *She was exiled to an island in the North Sea.*

ex officio /ˌeks ə'fɪʃiəʊ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'because of an office held' ○ *The treasurer is ex officio a member* or *an ex officio member of the finance committee.*

exonerate /ɪg'zɒnəreɪt/ *verb* to remove any blame from a person previously accused of an offence ○ *The judge exonerated the driver from all responsibility for the accident.*

exoneration /ɪgˌzɒnə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of exonerating

ex parte /ˌeks 'pɑːti/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'on behalf of', or 'on the part of one side only'. an application pursued by one party only. ○ *The wife applied ex parte for an ouster order against her husband.* (NOTE: It has been re-

placed by the term 'without notice'.) □ **an ex parte application** an application made to a court where only one side is represented and no notice is given to the other side (often where the application is for an injunction). ◊ **inter partes**

expatriate /eks'pætriət/ *noun* somebody who lives abroad ○ *There is a large expatriate community* or *a large community of expatriates in Geneva.* ■ *verb* to force someone to leave the country where he or she is living

expatriation /eks,pætri'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of leaving the country where you are living

expectancy /ɪk'spektənsi/**, expectation** /,ekspek'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the hope that you will inherit something

expectation of life /,ekspek'teɪʃ(ə)n əv laɪf/ *noun* the number of years a person is likely to live

expectations /,ekspek'teɪʃ(ə)nz/ ◆ **legitimate expectations**

expenditure /ɪk'spendɪtʃə/ *noun* the amount of money spent

expense /ɪk'spens/ *noun* money spent □ **at great expense** having spent a lot of money

expenses /ɪk'spensɪz/ *plural noun* money paid for doing something □ **all expenses paid** with all the costs of an activity paid by someone else □ **overhead expenses**, **general expenses, running expenses** money spent on the day-to-day costs of a business □ **travelling expenses** money spent on travelling and hotels for business purposes

COMMENT: In the UK, there is a limit to the amount of money each individual candidate can spend, so as not to favour rich candidates against poor ones. After the election the candidates and their agents have to make a return of expenses to show that they have not overspent. There is no limit to the spending of the political parties on a national level, and most of the campaign expenditure is made in this way, with national TV advertising, advertisements in the national press, etc. In the USA, the government subsidizes election expenses by paying an equivalent sum to that raised by each candidate. The candidates for the main elected positions (especially that of President) have to be rich, or at any rate to have rich supporters.

expert /'ekspɜːt/ *noun* somebody who knows a lot about something ○ *an expert in the field of fingerprints* or *a fingerprints expert* ○ *The company asked a financial expert for advice* or *asked for expert financial advice.*

expert evidence /,ekspɜːt 'evɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* evidence given by an expert witness

expert's report /,ekspɜːtz rɪ'pɔːt/ *noun* a report written by an expert, usually for a court case

expert witness /,ekspɜːt 'wɪtnəs/ *noun* a witness who is a specialist in a subject and is asked to give his or her opinion on technical matters

expiration /,ekspə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the end of something ○ *expiration of an insurance policy* ○ *to repay before the expiration of the stated period* □ **on expiration of the lease** when the lease comes to an end

expire /ɪk'spaɪə/ *verb* to come to an end ○ *The lease expires in 2010.* □ **his passport has expired** his passport is no longer valid

expiry /ɪk'spaɪəri/ *noun* the end of something ○ *expiry of an insurance policy*

expiry date /ɪk'spaɪəri deɪt/ *noun* **1.** the date when something will end, such as the last date for exercising an option **2.** the last date on which a credit card can be used

explicit /ɪk'splɪsɪt/ *adjective* which is clearly stated ○ *His explicit intention was to leave his house to his wife.*

explicitly /ek'splɪsɪtli/ *adverb* in a clear way ○ *The contract explicitly prohibits sale of the goods in Europe.*

export *noun* /'ekspɔːt/ the sending of goods to a foreign country to be sold ■ *verb* /ɪk'spɔːt/ to send goods abroad to be sold ○ *Most of the company's products are exported to the USA.*

export licence /'ekspɔːt ,laɪs(ə)ns/ *noun* a permit which allows a company to send products abroad to be sold

export permit /'ekspɔːt ,pɜːmɪt/ *noun* an official document which allows goods to be exported

export trade /'ekspɔːt treɪd/ *noun* the business of selling to other countries

ex post facto /ˌeks pəʊst 'fæktəʊ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'after the event'

exposure /ɪk'spəʊʒə/ *noun* the act of showing something which was hidden ○ *The report's exposure of corruption in the police force.*

expressio unius est exclusio alterius /ɪkˌspresiəʊ ˌuːniəs est ɪks ˌkluːziəʊ ɔːl'teriəs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'the mention that one thing is included implies that another thing is excluded'

expressly /ɪk'spresli/ *adverb* clearly in words ○ *The contract expressly forbids sales to the United States.* ○ *The franchisee is expressly forbidden to sell goods other than those supplied by the franchiser.*

express malice /ɪkˌspres 'mælɪs/ *noun US* the intention to kill someone

express term /ɪk'spres tɜːm/ *noun* a term in a contract which is agreed by both parties and clearly stated, i.e. either written or spoken. Compare **implied term**

expropriation /ɪksˌprəʊprɪ'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the action of the state in taking private property for public use without paying compensation **2.** *US* the action of the state in taking private property for public use and paying compensation to the former owner (NOTE: The British equivalent is **compulsory purchase**.)

expunge /ɪk'spʌndʒ/ *verb* to remove information from a record ○ *Inadmissible hearsay evidence was expunged from the report.*

extended credit /ɪkˌstendɪd 'kredɪt/ *noun* credit allowing the borrower a longer time to pay

extended family /ɪkˌstendɪd 'fæm(ə)li/ *noun* a group of related people, including distant relatives and close friends

extended sentence /ɪkˌstendɪd 'sentəns/ *noun* a sentence which is made longer than usual because the criminal is likely to repeat the offence ○ *He was sentenced to five years imprisonment, extended.*

extension /ɪk'stenʃən/ *noun* the act of allowing more time for an activity □ **an extension of credit** an allowance of more time to pay back money that is owed □ **extension of a contract** a further period of time after a contract has finished □ **extension of time** an allowance by court of more time in which to do or complete something ○ *the defendant applied for an extension of time in which to serve her defence*

extenuating circumstances /ɪk ˌstenjueɪtɪŋ 'sɜːkəmstənsɪz/ *plural noun* factors which excuse a crime in some way

extenuation /ɪkˌstenju'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* □ **in extenuation of something** in order to excuse something ○ *Counsel pleaded the accused's age in extenuation of his actions.*

external audit /ɪkˌstɜːn(ə)l 'ɔːdɪt/ *noun* an audit carried out by an independent auditor

external auditor /ɪkˌstɜːn(ə)l 'ɔːdɪtə/ *noun* an independent person who audits the company's accounts

extinguishment /ɪk'stɪŋgwɪʃmənt/ *noun* the act of cancelling a right or a power, especially the right to sue for non-payment once payment has been made

extort /ɪk'stɔːt/ *verb* to get money, promises or a confession from someone by using threats ○ *He extorted £20,000 from local shopkeepers.*

extortion /ɪk'stɔːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the activity of getting money by threats

extortionate credit bargain /ɪk ˌstɔːʃ(ə)nət 'kredɪt ˌbɑːgɪn/ *noun* a transaction whereby money is lent at a very high rate of interest, thereby rendering the transaction illegal

extortionist /ɪk'stɔːʃ(ə)nɪst/ *noun* someone who extorts money from people

extortion racket /ɪkˌstɔːʃ(ə)n 'rækɪt/ *noun* a racket to make money by threatening people

extra- /ekstrə/ *prefix* outside

extra-authority payments /ˌekstrə ɔːˌθɒrɪti 'peɪmənts/ *noun* payments made to another authority for services provided by that authority

extract *noun* /'ekstrækt/ a printed document which is part of a larger document ○ *The solicitor sent an extract of the deeds.* ■ *verb* /ɪk'strækt/ to get something such as information or a promise from someone by force, threats or close questioning ○ *The confession was extracted under torture.* ○ *The magistrate extracted an admission from the witness that she had not seen the accident.*

extradite /'ekstrədaɪt/ *verb* to bring an arrested person from another country to your country because he or she is wanted for trial for a crime committed in your country ○ *He was arrested in France and extradited to stand trial in Germany.*

extradition /ˌekstrə'dɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of extraditing ○ *The USA is seeking the extradition of the leader of the drug gang.*

extradition treaty /ˌekstrə'dɪʃ(ə)n ˌtriːti/ *noun* an agreement between two countries that a person arrested in one country can be sent to the other to stand trial for a crime committed there

Extraordinary General Meeting /ɪkˌstrɔːd(ə)n(ə)ri ˌdʒen(ə)rəl 'miːtɪŋ/ *noun* a special meeting of shareholders or members of a club to discuss an important matter which cannot wait until the next Annual General Meeting. Abbreviation **EGM**

extraordinary items /ɪk 'strɔːd(ə)n(ə)ri ˌaɪtəmz/ *plural noun* items in accounts which do not appear each year and need to be noted

extra-territoriality /ˌekstrə ˌterɪtɔːri'ælɪti/ *noun* (*of diplomats*) being outside the territory of the country where you are living, and so not subject to its laws (used of diplomats)

extra-territorial waters /ˌekstrə ˌterɪtɔːriəl 'wɔːtəz/ *plural noun* international waters, outside the jurisdiction of any one country

extremism /ɪk'striːmɪz(ə)m/ *noun* ideas and practices that favour very strong action, even including the use of violence

extremist /ɪk'striːmɪst/ *noun* a person in favour of very strong, sometimes violent methods, regarded as unreasonable by most other people ■ *adjective* in favour of very strong, sometimes violent methods ○ *extremist political parties*

extrinsic evidence /eksˌtrɪnsɪk 'evɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* evidence used in the interpretation of a document which is not found in the document itself. Compare **intrinsic evidence**

ex turpi causa non oritur actio /ˌeks ˌtʊəpi ˌkaʊzə nɒn ˌɒrɪtə 'æktiəʊ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'from a base cause no action can proceed': it is not legally possible to enforce an illegal contract

eye witness /ˌaɪ 'wɪtnəs/ *noun* a person who saw something such as an accident or a crime happen ○ *She gave an eye witness account of the bank hold-up.*

F

face /feɪs/ *verb* □ **to face a charge** to appear in court and be charged with a crime ○ *He faces three charges relating to firearms.*

facie ◗ **prima facie**

facsimile /fæk'sɪmɪlɪ/, **facsimile copy** /fæk,sɪmɪli 'kɒpi/ *noun* an exact copy of a document

fact /fækt/ *noun* something which is true and real, especially something which has been proved by evidence in court ○ *The chairman of the tribunal asked to see all the facts on the income tax claim.* □ **in fact**, **in point of fact** really

faction /'fækʃən/ *noun* a group of people within a larger organisation such as a political party who have different views or aims from the other members (*sometimes as criticism*) ○ *Arguments broke out between different factions at the party conference.* ○ *The Prime Minister has the support of most factions in the party.*

factional /'fækʃən(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to factions ○ *Factional infighting has weakened the party structure.*

facto ◗ **de facto, ipso facto**

factoring /'fæktərɪŋ/ *noun* the activity of selling debts to a debt factor

factors of production /,fæktəz əv prə'dʌkʃən/ *noun* the three things needed to produce a product (land, labour and capital)

Faculty of Advocates /,fæk(ə)lti əv 'ædvəʊkəts/ *noun* the legal body to which Scottish barristers belong

failing prompt payment /,feɪlɪŋ prɒmpt 'peɪmənt/ *phrase* if the payment is not made on time

failure to appear /,feɪljə tə ə'pɪə/ *noun* a failure to come to court when expected (NOTE: The case may continue in the absence of one of the parties, but not of both.)

fair /feə/ *adjective* honest or correct

fair comment /,feə 'kɒment/ *noun* a defence to a charge of defamation on a matter of public interest asserting that the statement in question was true, fair and honestly made

fair copy /,feə 'kɒpi/ *noun* a document which is written or typed with no changes or mistakes

fair dealing /,feə 'diːlɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the legal buying and selling of shares **2.** the practice of quoting small sections of a copyright work

fair dismissal /,feə dɪs'mɪs(ə)l/ *noun* the situation when an employee is deemed to have been dismissed from their employment for a lawful reason, i.e. (1) capability; (2) qualifications or conduct; (3) redundancy; (4) illegality; (5) some other substantial reason (SOSR)

fair price /,feə 'praɪs/ *noun* a good price for both buyer and seller

fair rent /,feə 'rent/ *noun* reasonable rent for a property, bearing in mind the size and type of property and its situation

fair trade /,feə 'treɪd/ *noun* an international business system where countries agree not to charge import duties on items imported from their trading partners

fair trading /,feə 'treɪdɪŋ/ *noun* a way of carrying business which is reasonable and does not harm the consumer

fair use /,feə 'juːs/ *noun* the use which can be legally made of a quotation from a copyright text without the permission of the copyright owner

fair value /ˌfeə 'vælju:/ *noun* a price paid by a buyer who knows the value of what he is buying to a seller who also knows the value of what he is selling, i.e. neither is cheating the other

fair wear and tear /ˌfeə weər ən 'teə/ *noun* acceptable damage caused by normal use ○ *The insurance policy covers most damage, but not fair wear and tear to the machine.*

faith /feɪθ/ *noun* □ **to have faith in something**, **someone** to believe that something or a person is good or will work well □ **in good faith** in an honest way □ **he acted in good faith** he acted honestly □ **he acted in bad faith** he acted dishonestly □ **to buy something in good faith** to buy something honestly, in the course of an honest transaction ○ *He bought the car in good faith, not knowing it had been stolen.*

fake /feɪk/ *noun* a copy made for criminal purposes ○ *The shipment came with fake documentation.* ■ *verb* to make an imitation for criminal purposes ○ *They faked a break-in to make the police believe the documents had been stolen.*

fall /fɔ:l/ *verb* **1.** to happen on a particular day or date ○ *The national holiday falls on a Monday.* **2.** to become ○ *Her husband fell ill and couldn't work.* □ **to fall due on** to become ready to be paid on a particular date ○ *The bill fell due on the last day of March.* □ **to fall foul of** to get into trouble with someone, or break the law ○ *His plan fell foul of the local authorities.* ○ *The venture quickly fell foul of the law.* □ **to fall under someone's influence** *or* **sway** to become strongly influenced by someone else, especially to do something wrong ◇ **fall in with someone** to become associated with someone, especially someone who is a bad influence ◇ **fall outside** not to belong to a particular area of knowledge or activity ○ *That question falls outside my specialist knowledge.* ◇ **fall within** to belong to a particular area of knowledge or activity ○ *Does this fall within the terms of the agreement?*

false /fɔ:ls/ *adjective* not true or not correct ○ *to make a false entry in the record* □ **by** *or* **under false pretence(s)** by doing or saying something to trick someone ○ *he was sent to prison for obtaining money by false pretences*

false accounting /ˌfɔ:ls ə'kaʊntɪŋ/ *noun* the notifiable offence of changing, destroying or hiding financial records for money, punishable by up to seven years' imprisonment

false description of contents /fɔ:ls dɪˌskrɪpʃən əv kən'tents/ *noun* wrongly stating the contents of a packet to trick customers into buying it

falsehood /'fɔ:lshʊd/ *noun* a deliberately incorrect statement

false imprisonment /ˌfɔ:ls ɪm 'prɪz(ə)nmənt/ *noun* unlawful detainment of an individual which restricts their right to freedom of movement to leave an area, rather than actually being put in prison. Examples are an unlawful arrest or preventing a person from leaving a room.

false positive /ˌfɔ:ls 'pɒzɪtɪv/ *noun* an incorrect result occurring when data about a person is matched against a checklist, e.g. when a passenger profile is matched against a list of suspected terrorists

false representation /fɔ:ls ˌreprɪzen'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun US* the offence of making a wrong statement which misleads someone

false weight /ˌfɔ:ls 'weɪt/ *noun* a weight on shop scales which is wrong and so cheats customers

falsification of accounts /fɔ:lsɪfɪ ˌkeɪʃ(ə)n əv ə'kaʊnts/ *noun* the action of making false entries in a record or of destroying a record

falsify /'fɔ:lsɪfaɪ/ *verb* to change something to make it wrong □ **to falsify accounts** to change or destroy a record

family /'fæm(ə)li/ *noun* **1.** a group of people who are related by birth or marriage **2.** a group of organised Mafia gangsters (*slang*)

family company /'fæm(ə)li ˌkʌmp(ə)ni/ *noun* a company where most of the shares are owned by members of the same family

Family Division /ˌfæm(ə)li dɪ 'vɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* one of the three divisions of the High Court which deals with di-

vorce cases and cases involving parents and children

family law /'fæm(ə)li lɔː/ *noun* law relating to families or to the rights and duties of the members of a family

family life /'fæm(ə)li laɪf/ *noun* a qualified right to family life. Interference is allowed on the grounds of legitimate public interest but must be proportionate. It is found in Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights and was introduced into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998. ◊ **emergency protection order, threshold criteria**

fast track /'fɑːst træk/ *noun* a case management system normally applied to civil cases involving sums between £5000 and £15,000

COMMENT: The timetable for the fast track is given in the directions for the case. A typical timetable starts from the date of the notice of allocation, and gives four weeks to disclosure, 10 weeks for the exchange of experts' reports, 20 weeks for the court to send out listing questionnaires and 30 weeks to the hearing; the trial must not last more than one day, and such issues as liability and quantum may be decided separately.

fast-track /ˌfɑːst 'træk/ *adjective* moving forward at a faster rate ○ *There is a new fast-track procedure for hearing claims.*

fatal /'feɪt(ə)l/ *adjective* causing a death ○ *He took a fatal dose of drugs.* ○ *There were six fatal accidents in the first week of the year.*

FBI /efbiː'aɪ/ *abbreviation* Federal Bureau of Investigation

feasant ◊ **damage feasant**

feasibility /ˌfiːzə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the ability to be done

feasibility study /ˌfiːzə'bɪlɪti ˌstʌdi/ *noun* research done to see if something which has been planned is a good idea ○ *The council asked the planning department to comment on the feasibility of the project.* ○ *The department has produced a feasibility report on the development project.*

feasibility test /ˌfiːzə'bɪlɪti test/ *noun* a test to see if something is possible

feasible /'fiːzɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* possible ○ *The Planning Department says it is not feasible to produce draft plans at this stage.*

Federal Bureau of Investigation /ˌfed(ə)rəl ˌbjʊərəʊ əv ɪnˌvestɪ 'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun US* the section of the US Department of Justice which investigates crimes against federal law and subversive acts in the USA. Abbreviation **FBI**

federal court /'fed(ə)rəl kɔːt/, **federal laws** /'fed(ə)rəl lɔːs/ *noun US* the court or laws of the USA, as opposed to state courts or state laws

Federal Reserve Bank /ˌfed(ə)rəl rɪ'zɜːv ˌbæŋk/ *noun US* one of the twelve central banks in the USA which are owned by the state and directed by the Federal Reserve Board

Federal Reserve Board /ˌfed(ə)rəl rɪ'zɜːv bɔːd/ *noun US* a government organisation which runs the central banks in the USA

fee /fiː/ *noun* **1.** the money paid for work carried out by a professional person such as an accountant, doctor or lawyer ○ *a barrister's fees* ○ *We charge a small fee for our services.* **2.** the money paid for something ○ *entrance fee* or *admission fee* ○ *registration fee* **3.** ownership of land which may be inherited

fee simple /ˌfiː 'sɪmpəl/ *noun* freehold ownership of land with no restrictions to it ○ *to hold an estate in fee simple*

fee tail /'fiː teɪl/ *noun* a legal interest in land which is passed on to the owner's direct descendants, and which cannot be passed to anyone else (NOTE: The creation of these interests is no longer possible.)

felonious /fə'ləʊniəs/ *adjective* criminal ○ *He carried out a felonious act.*

felony /'feləni/ *noun* an old term for a serious crime ○ *to commit a felony* (NOTE: still used in the expression **treason felony**)

feme covert /ˌfem 'kəʊvət/ *phrase* a French phrase meaning 'married woman'

feme sole /ˌfem 'səʊl/ *phrase* a French phrase meaning 'unmarried woman'

fence /fens/ *noun* somebody who receives and sells stolen goods (*informal*) ■ *verb* to receive stolen goods to sell

feudal society /ˌfjuːd(ə)l səˈsaɪəti/ *noun* a society where each class or level has a duty to serve the class above it

fiat /ˈfiːæt/ *noun* an agreement, e.g. of the Attorney-General, to bring a prosecution

fiat justitia /ˌfiːæt dʒʌsˈtɪsiə/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'let justice be done'

fiat money /ˈfiːæt ˌmʌni/ *noun* coins or notes which are not worth much as paper or metal, but are said by the government to have a value

fiction of law /ˌfɪkʃən əv ˈlɔː/ *noun* the act of assuming something to be true, even if it is not proved to be so, which is a procedural device of courts to avoid problems caused by statute

fictitious /fɪkˈtɪʃəs/ *adjective* not existing, and sometimes intended to deceive people

fictitious assets /fɪkˌtɪʃəs ˈæsets/ *plural noun* assets which do not really exist, but are entered as assets to balance the accounts

fide ➧ **bona fide purchaser, bona fides**

fiduciary /fɪˈdjuːʃjəri/ *adjective* acting as trustee for someone else, or being in a position of trust ○ *A company director owes a fiduciary duty to the company.* □ **to act in a fiduciary capacity** to act as a trustee ■ *noun* a trustee

fieri facias /ˌfaɪraɪ ˈfeɪʃiæs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'make it happen'

fi. fa. *abbreviation* **fieri facias**

FIFO *abbreviation* first in first out

Fifth Amendment /ˌfɪfθ əˈmendmənt/ *noun US* an amendment to the constitution of the USA, which says that no person can be forced to give evidence which might incriminate himself or herself □ **to plead the Fifth Amendment**, **to take the Fifth Amendment** to refuse to give evidence to a court, tribunal or committee, because the evidence might incriminate you

file /faɪl/ *noun* **1.** documents kept for reference, either on paper or as data on a computer, such as information on staff salaries, address list, customer accounts ○ *The police keep a file of missing vehicles.* ○ *Look up her description in the missing persons' file.* □ **to place something on file** to keep a record of something □ **to keep someone's name on file** to keep someone's name on a list for reference **2.** a cardboard holder for documents, which can fit in the drawer of a filing cabinet ○ *Put these letters in the unsolved cases file.* ○ *Look in the file marked 'Scottish police forces'.* ■ *verb* **1.** □ **to file documents** to put documents in order so that they can be found easily **2.** to make an official request □ **to file a petition in bankruptcy** to ask officially to be made bankrupt, to ask officially for someone else to be made bankrupt **3.** to send a document to court ○ *When a defendant is served with particulars of claim he can file a defence.* □ **the defence must be filed and served in seven days** the defence must be sent to court and to the other party within seven days **4.** to register something officially ○ *to file an application for a patent* ○ *to file a return to the tax office*

file copy /ˈfaɪl ˌkɒpi/ *noun* a copy of a document which is filed in an office for reference

filing /ˈfaɪlɪŋ/ *noun* the delivery of a legal document to the court office by hand, post, fax, etc.

filing basket /ˈfaɪlɪŋ ˌbɑːskɪt/ *noun* a container kept on a desk for documents which have to be filed

filing card /ˈfaɪlɪŋ kɑːd/ *noun* a card with information written on it, used to classify information into the correct order

filing clerk /ˈfaɪlɪŋ klɑːk/ *noun* a clerk who files documents

final date for payment /ˌfaɪn(ə)l deɪt fə ˈpeɪmənt/ *noun* the last date by which payment should be made

final demand /ˌfaɪn(ə)l dɪˈmɑːnd/ *noun* the last reminder from a supplier, after which he or she will sue for payment

final discharge /ˌfaɪn(ə)l dɪsˈtʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* the final payment of what is left of a debt

final dividend /ˌfaɪn(ə)l 'dɪvɪdend/ *noun* a dividend paid at the end of a year

final hearing /ˌfaɪn(ə)l 'hɪərɪŋ/ *noun* the actual hearing of a case in the small claims track, which aims at being informal and rapid

final judgment /ˌfaɪn(ə)l 'dʒʌdʒmənt/ *noun* a judgment which is awarded at the end of an action after trial. Compare **interlocutory judgment**

Finance Act /'faɪnæns ækt/ *noun* an annual Act of the British Parliament which gives the government power to raise taxes as proposed in the budget (NOTE: Use **under** when referring to an Act of Parliament: *a creditor seeking a receiving order under the Bankruptcy Act*; *She does not qualify under section 2 of the 1979 Act.*)

Finance Bill and Finance Act /ˌfaɪnæns bɪl ən 'faɪnæns ˌækt/ *noun* an annual Bill and Act of Parliament which gives the Government the power to raise taxes to produce money for the Exchequer, and which then can be spent as proposed in the Budget

finance charge /'faɪnæns tʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* **1.** the cost of borrowing money **2.** an additional charge made to a customer who asks for extended credit

finance company /'faɪnæns ˌkʌmp(ə)ni/ *noun* a company which provides money for hire-purchase

finance corporation /'faɪnæns ˌkɔːpəreɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a company which provides money for hire purchase

Finance Minister /ˌfaɪnæns 'mɪnɪstə/ *noun* a government minister responsible for finance (both taxation and expenditure)

financial /faɪ'nænʃəl/ *adjective* referring to money or finance ○ *He has a financial interest in the company.* □ **to make financial provision for someone** to arrange for someone to receive money to live on (by attachment of earnings, etc.)

COMMENT: In most countries, the government department dealing with finance is called the Finance Ministry, with a Finance Minister in charge. Both in the UK and the USA, the department is called the Treasury, and the minister in charge is the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the UK, and the Treasury Secretary in the USA.

financial assistance /faɪˌnænʃəl ə 'sɪstəns/ *noun* help in the form of money

financial commitments /faɪ ˌnænʃəl kə'mɪtmənts/ *plural noun* money which is owed to someone for bills or purchases

financial provision order /faɪ ˌnænʃəl prə'vɪʒ(ə)n ˌɔːdə/ *noun* an order which, during the course of family proceedings, is made on or after the granting of a decree of divorce or annulment, providing for a financial settlement between the parties, or a lump sum

financial relief /faɪˌnænʃ(ə)l rɪ'liːf/ *noun* any or all of the following orders available during family proceedings: maintenance pending suit orders, financial provision orders, property adjustment orders and court orders for maintenance during marriage (NOTE: Maintenance for children of a marriage falls outside of the jurisdiction of the court and must be made to the Child Support Agency directly, the only exception being when the children of the marriage have special needs or are adopted.)

financial review /faɪˌnænʃəl rɪ'vjuː/ *noun* an examination of an organisation's finances

financial statement /faɪˌnænʃəl 'steɪtmənt/ *noun* a document which shows the financial situation of a company at the end of an accounting period and the transactions which have taken place during that period. It includes the balance sheet, the profit and loss account, etc.

find /faɪnd/ *verb* **1.** to get something which was not there before ○ *to find backing for a project* **2.** to make a legal decision in court ○ *The tribunal found that both parties were at fault.* ○ *The court found the accused guilty on all charges.* □ **the judge found for the defendant** the judge decided that the defendant was right

finder's fee /'faɪndəz fiː/ *noun* a fee paid to a person who finds a client for another

findings /'faɪndɪŋz/ *noun* a decision reached by a court □ **the findings of a**

commission of enquiry the conclusions of the commission

fine /faɪn/ *noun* a sum of money ordered to be paid by a defendant as punishment on conviction for an offence ○ *The court sentenced him to pay a £25,000 fine.* ○ *We had to pay a £10 parking fine.* ○ *The sentence for dangerous driving is a £1,000 fine or two months in prison.* ■ *verb* to order a defendant who has been convicted of an offence to pay a sum of money as punishment. The court is must look into the financial circumstances of the offender before fixing the amount of the fine, and must ensure that it reflects the severity of the offence committed. ○ *to fine someone £2,500 for obtaining money by false pretences*

fingerprint /'fɪŋgəprɪnt/ *noun* a mark left on a surface by fingers, from which a person may be identified ○ *They found his fingerprints on the murder weapon.* ○ *The court heard evidence from a fingerprint expert.* □ **to take someone's fingerprints** to take a copy of a person's fingerprints (by printing them with ink on film or a filing card) so that he or she can be identified in future ■ *verb* to take someone's fingerprints ○ *The police fingerprinted the suspect after charging him.*

fingertip search /'fɪŋgətɪp ˌsɜːtʃ/ *noun* a very careful search of a crime scene and the surrounding area carried out by hand in the hope of finding evidence

fire /faɪə/ *noun* **1.** burning ○ *The shipment was damaged in the fire on board the cargo boat.* ○ *Half the stock was destroyed in the warehouse fire.* □ **to catch fire** to start to burn ○ *The papers in the waste paper basket caught fire.* **2.** the act of shooting □ **the police opened fire on the crowd** the police started to shoot at the crowd ■ *verb* **1.** to shoot a gun ○ *He fired two shots at the crowd.* **2.** □ **to fire someone** to dismiss someone from a job ○ *The new managing director fired half the sales force.*

firearm /'faɪərɑːm/ *noun* a gun or other weapon used to shoot

firearms certificate /ˌfaɪərɑːmz sə 'tɪfɪkət/ *noun* an official document saying that someone has permission to own a gun

fire certificate /'faɪə səˌtɪfɪkət/ *noun* a document from the municipal fire department to say that a building is properly protected against fire

fire damage /'faɪə ˌdæmɪdʒ/ *noun* damage to land caused by a fire

fire-damaged goods /ˌfaɪə ˌdæmɪdʒd 'gʊdz/ *plural noun* goods which have been damaged in a fire

fire door /'faɪə dɔː/ *noun* a special door to prevent fire going from one part of a building to another

fire hazard /'faɪə ˌhæzəd/ *noun* a situation or materials which could start a fire ○ *That warehouse full of paper is a fire hazard.*

fire insurance /'faɪər ɪnˌʃʊərəns/ *noun* insurance against damage by fire

fire-proof safe /ˌfaɪə pruːf 'seɪf/ *noun* a safe which cannot be harmed by fire

fire-raiser /'faɪə ˌreɪzə/ *noun* a person who sets fire to property

fire-raising /'faɪə ˌreɪzɪŋ/ *noun* the act of setting fire to property on purpose. ◊ **arson, arsonist**

fire regulations /faɪə ˌregjʊ 'leɪʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* local or national regulations which owners of buildings used by the public have to obey in order to be granted a fire certificate

fire safety /ˌfaɪə 'seɪfti/ *noun* a set of safety measures and procedures in case of fire

fire safety officer /faɪə 'seɪfti ˌɒfɪsə/ *noun* the person responsible for fire safety in a building

firing squad /'faɪərɪŋ skwɒd/ *noun* a group of soldiers who execute someone by shooting

firm /fɜːm/ *noun* a partnership or any other business which is not a company ○ *a firm of accountants* ○ *an important publishing firm* ○ *He is a partner in a law firm.* (NOTE: Firm is often used when referring to incorporated companies, but this is not correct.) ■ *verb* to remain at a price and seem likely to go up ○ *The shares firmed at £1.50.*

firm price /ˌfɜːm 'praɪs/ *noun* a price which will not change

First Amendment /ˌfɜːst ə 'men(d)mənt/ *noun US* the first amendment to the Constitution of the USA, guaranteeing freedom of speech and religion

first degree murder /fɜːst dɪˌgriː 'mɜːdə/ *noun US* the premeditated and deliberate killing of a person

first in first out /ˌfɜːst ɪn ˌfɜːst 'aʊt/ *noun* **1.** a redundancy policy, where the people who have been working longest are the first to be made redundant **2.** an accounting policy where stock is valued at the price of the oldest purchases

first offence /ˌfɜːst ə'fens/ *noun* committing an offence for the first time, which makes it less likely to result in a prison sentence in the case of summary offences

first offender /ˌfɜːst ə'fendə/ *noun* somebody who has committed an offence for the first time

first option /ˌfɜːst 'opʃən/ *noun* the right to be the first to have the possibility of deciding or having something

FISA *abbreviation* Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act

FISA court *noun* a US court composed of a rotating panel of federal judges that reviews in secret prosecutors' requests to tap the phones of suspected spies and terrorists and to carry out searches

fiscal measures /ˌfɪskəl 'meʒəz/ *plural noun* tax changes made by a government to improve the working of the economy

fishing expedition /'fɪʃɪŋ ˌekspɪdɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the use of the prehearing disclosure of documents to try to find other documents belonging to the defendant which the claimant does not know about and which might help him with his claim (*informal*)

fit /fɪt/ *adjective* physically or mentally able to do something ○ *The solicitor stated that his client was not fit to plead.*

fitness for purpose /ˌfɪtnəs fə 'pɜːpəs/ *noun* an implied contractual term that goods sold will be of the necessary standard to be used for the purpose for which they were bought

fittings /'fɪtɪŋz/ ◆ **fixtures and fittings**

fixed capital /ˌfɪkst 'kæpɪt(ə)l/ *noun* capital in the form of buildings and machinery

fixed charge /ˌfɪkst 'tʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* a charge over a particular asset or property

fixed costs /ˌfɪkst 'kɒsts/ *plural noun* **1.** a set amount of money to which a claimant is entitled in legal proceedings **2.** the cost of producing a product, which does not increase with the amount of product made, e.g. rent

fixed deposit /ˌfɪkst dɪ'pɒzɪt/ *noun* a deposit which pays a stated interest over a set period

fixed expenses /ˌfɪkst ɪk'spensɪz/ *plural noun* money which is spent regularly, e.g. rent, electricity, or telephone costs

fixed income /ˌfɪkst 'ɪnkʌm/ *noun* an income such as from an annuity which does not change in amount from year to year

fixed interest /ˌfɪkst 'ɪntrəst/ *noun* interest which is paid at a set rate

fixed-interest investments /fɪkst ˌɪntrəst ɪn'vestmənts/ *plural noun* investments producing an interest which does not change

fixed-price agreement /fɪkst 'praɪs əˌgriːmənt/ *noun* an agreement where a company provides a service or a product at a price which stays the same for the whole period of the agreement

fixed rate /ˌfɪkst 'reɪt/ *noun* a charge which cannot be changed

fixed scale of charges /ˌfɪkst skeɪl əv 'tʃɑːdʒɪz/ *plural noun* rate of charging which cannot be altered

fixed term /ˌfɪkst 'tɜːm/ *noun* a period which is fixed when a contract is signed and which cannot be changed afterwards

fixture /'fɪkstʃə/ *noun* an item such as a sink or lavatory which is permanently attached to a property and which passes to a new owner with the property itself

fixtures and fittings /ˌfɪkstʃəz ən 'fɪtɪŋz/ *plural noun* objects in a property which are sold with the property, including both objects which are permanently fixed and those which can be removed

flag /flæg/ *verb* □ **to flag a ship** to give a ship the right to fly a flag, by registering it. ◊ **reflag** ◇ **to fly a flag 1.** to attach the flag in an obvious position to show that your ship belongs to a certain country ○ *ship flying the British flag* **2.** to act in a certain way to show that you are proud of belonging to a certain country or working for a certain company ○ *ship flying a flag of convenience* ○ *the Trade Minister has gone to the World Fair to fly the flag* ○ *he is only attending the conference to fly the flag for the company*

flag of convenience /ˌflæg əv kən 'viːniəns/ *noun* the flag of a country which may have no ships of its own but allows ships of other countries to be registered in its ports

flagrant /'fleɪgrənt/ *adjective* clear and obvious ○ *A flagrant case of contempt of court.* ○ *A flagrant violation of human rights.*

flagrante ◗ **in flagrante delicto**

flat rate /ˌflæt 'reɪt/ *noun* a charge which always stays the same ○ *We pay a flat rate for electricity each quarter.* ○ *He is paid a flat rate of £2 per thousand.*

flotsam and jetsam /ˌflɒtsəm ən 'dʒetsəm/ *noun* rubbish floating in the water after a ship has been wrecked and rubbish washed on to the land

flout /flaʊt/ *verb* to break or act go against a rule or the law ○ *By selling alcohol to minors, the shop is deliberately flouting the law.*

FO *abbreviation* Foreign Office

f.o.b. *abbreviation* free on board

follow /'fɒləʊ/ *verb* to act in accordance with a rule ○ *The court has followed the precedent set in the 1972 case.*

follow-up letter /'fɒləʊ ʌp ˌletə/ *noun* a letter sent to someone after a previous letter or after a visit

foolscap /'fuːlskæp/ *noun* a large size of writing paper ○ *The letter was on six sheets of foolscap.* □ **a foolscap envelope** large envelope which takes foolscap paper

forbear /fɔː'beə/ *verb* □ **to forbear from doing something** not to do something which you intended to do ○ *He forbore from taking any further action.*

forbearance /fɔː'beərəns/ *noun* an act of not doing something, such as enforcing payment of a debt, which could have been done

force /fɔːs/ *noun* **1.** physical strength or violence **2.** influence or effect □ **to be in force** to be operating or working ○ *The rules have been in force since 1946.* □ **to come into force** to start to operate or work ○ *The new procedures will come into force on January 1st.* □ **the force of law**, **legal force** the power of being controlled by law ○ *The new regulations have the force of law.*

forced sale /ˌfɔːst 'seɪl/ *noun* a sale which takes place because a court orders it or because it is the only way to avoid insolvency

force majeure /ˌfɔːs mæ'ʒɜː/ *noun* something which happens which is out of the control of the parties who have signed a contract, such as a war or a storm, and which prevents the contract being fulfilled. ◊ **act of God**

forcible /'fɔːsɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* using force

forcible entry /ˌfɔːsɪb(ə)l 'entri/ *noun* formerly, the criminal offence of entering a building or land and taking possession of it by force

forcible feeding /ˌfɔːsɪb(ə)l 'fiːdɪŋ/ *noun* the act of giving food by force to a prisoner on hunger strike

foreclose /fɔː'kləʊz/ *verb* to take possession of a property because the owner cannot repay money which he or she has borrowed using the property as security ○ *to foreclose on a mortgaged property*

foreclosure /fɔː'kləʊʒə/ *noun* the act of foreclosing

foreclosure order absolute /fɔː ˌkləʊʒə ˌɔːdə 'æbsəluːt/ *noun* a court order giving the mortgagee full rights to the property

foreclosure order nisi /fɔːˌkləʊʒə ˌɔːdə 'naɪsaɪ/ *noun* a court order which makes a mortgagor pay outstanding debts to a mortgagee within a specified period of time

foreign /'fɒrɪn/ *adjective* not belonging to one's own country ○ *Foreign cars have flooded our market.* ○ *We are in-*

creasing our trade with foreign countries.

foreign currency /ˌfɒrɪn 'kʌrənsi/ *noun* the currency of another country

foreign exchange broker /ˌfɒrɪn ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ ˌbrəʊkə/ *noun* somebody who deals on the foreign exchange market

foreign exchange dealing /ˌfɒrɪn ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ ˌdiːlɪŋ/ *noun* the activity of buying and selling foreign currencies

foreign exchange market /ˌfɒrɪn ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ ˌmɑːkɪt/ *noun* dealings in foreign currencies

foreign exchange reserves /ˌfɒrɪn ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ rɪˌzɜːvz/ *plural noun* foreign money held by a government to support its own currency and pay its debts

foreign exchange transfer /ˌfɒrɪn ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ ˌtrænsfɜː/ *noun* the sending of money from one country to another

foreign goods /ˌfɒrɪn 'gʊdz/ *plural noun* goods produced in other countries

foreign investments /ˌfɒrɪn ɪn 'vestmənts/ *plural noun* money invested in other countries

foreign money order /ˌfɒrɪn 'mʌni ˌɔːdə/ *noun* money order in a foreign currency which is payable to someone living in a foreign country

Foreign Office /'fɒrɪn ˌɒfɪs/**, Foreign and Commonwealth Office** /ˌfɒrɪn ən ˌkɒmənwelθ 'ɒfɪs/ *noun* the British government department dealing with relations with other countries

foreign policy /ˌfɒrɪn 'pɒlɪsi/ *noun* a policy followed by a country when dealing with other countries

foreign rights /ˌfɒrɪn 'raɪts/ *plural noun* legal entitlement to sell something in a foreign country

Foreign Service /ˌfɒrɪn 'sɜːvɪs/ *noun* a government department responsible for a country's representation in other countries

foreign trade /ˌfɒrɪn 'treɪd/ *noun* trade with other countries

foreman of the jury /ˌfɔːmən əv ðə 'dʒʊəri/ *noun* a person elected by the other jurors, who chairs the meetings of a jury and pronounces the verdict in court afterwards

forensic /fə'rensɪk/ *adjective* referring to courts, the law, pleading a case or punishing crime

forensic medicine /fəˌrensɪk 'med(ə)sɪn/ *noun* medical science concerned with solving crimes against people

forensic science /fəˌrensɪk 'saɪəns/ *noun* science used in solving legal problems and criminal cases

foresee /fɔː'siː/ *verb* to guess or assess correctly what is going to happen in the future (NOTE: **foreseeing – foresaw – has foreseen**)

foreseeability /fɔːˌsiːə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the ability of something to be foreseen

foreseeability test /fɔːˌsiːə'bɪlɪti ˌtest/ *noun* a test for calculating liability on the part of a person who should have foreseen the consequences of his or her action, especially in cases of negligence

forfeit /'fɔːfɪt/ *noun* the removal of something as a punishment □ **the goods were declared forfeit** the court said that the goods had to be taken away from their owner ■ *verb* to have something taken away as a punishment □ **to forfeit a deposit** to lose a deposit because you have decided not to buy the item

forfeit clause /'fɔːfɪt klɔːz/ *noun* a clause in a contract which says that goods or a deposit will be forfeited if the contract is not obeyed

forfeiture /'fɔːfɪtʃə/ *noun* the act of forfeiting a property or a right

forfeiture of shares /ˌfɔːfɪtʃə əv 'ʃeəz/ *plural noun* losing the right to shares which a shareholder has not claimed

forfeiture rule /'fɔːfɪtʃə ruːl/ *noun* the unwritten rule that someone who has unlawfully killed another person should not benefit from the dead person's will

forge /fɔːdʒ/ *verb* to copy something such as a document or banknote illegally to use as if it were real ○ *He tried to enter the country with forged documents.* ○ *She wanted to pay the bill with a forged £10 note.*

forgery /'fɔːdʒəri/ *noun* **1.** the crime of making an illegal copy of something

such as a document or banknote to use as if it were real ○ *He was sent to prison for forgery.* **2.** an illegal copy ○ *The signature was proved to be a forgery.*

forgery and uttering /ˌfɔːdʒəri ən ˈʌtərɪŋ/ *noun* a notifiable offence of forging and then using an official document such as a prescription for drugs

fori ➧ **lex fori**

form /fɔːm/ *noun* an official printed paper with blank spaces which have to be filled in with information ○ *you have to fill in form A20* ○ *customs declaration form* ○ *a pad of order forms*

forma /ˈfɔːmə/ ➧ **pro forma**

formal /ˈfɔːm(ə)l/ *adjective* clearly and legally written ○ *to make a formal application* ○ *to send a formal order*

formality /fɔːˈmælɪti/ *noun* a formal procedure, thing which has to be done to obey the law or because it is the custom ○ *The chairman dispensed with the formality of reading the minutes.*

formally /ˈfɔːməli/ *adverb* in a formal way ○ *We have formally applied for planning permission for the new shopping precinct.*

form of words /ˌfɔːm əv ˈwɜːdz/ *plural noun* words correctly laid out for a legal document

forthwith /fɔːθˈwɪθ/ *adverb* immediately

fortiori ➧ **a fortiori**

forum /ˈfɔːrəm/ *noun* a place where matters are discussed or examined ○ *The magistrates' court is not the appropriate forum for this application.*

forward /ˈfɔːwəd/ *adverb* **1.** □ **to date an invoice forward** to put a later date than the present one on an invoice **2.** □ **to buy forward** to buy foreign currency, gold or commodities before you need them, in order to be certain of the exchange rate □ **to sell forward** to sell foreign currency, commodities, etc., for delivery at a later date **3.** □ **balance brought forward**, **carried forward** balance which is entered in an account at the end of a period or page and is then taken to be the starting point of the next period or page ■ *verb* □ **to forward something to someone** to send something to someone □ **please forward**, **to be forwarded** words written on an envelope, asking the person receiving it to send it on to the person whose name is written on it

foster /ˈfɒstə/ *verb* to look after and bring up a child who is not your own

foster child /ˈfɒstə tʃaɪld/ *noun* a child who is cared for by someone other than its natural or adopted parents

foster home /ˈfɒstə həʊm/ *noun* a home where a foster child is brought up

foster parent /ˌfɒstə ˈmʌðə/ *noun* a woman or man who looks after a child and brings it up

foul bill of lading /ˌfaʊl bɪl əv ˈleɪdɪŋ/ *noun* a bill of lading which says that the goods were in bad condition when received by the shipper

fourth quarter /ˌfɔːθ ˈkwɔːtə/ *noun* a period of three months from October to the end of the year ○ *The instalments are payable at the end of each quarter.* ○ *The first quarter's rent is payable in advance.*

frais ➧ **sans frais**

frame /freɪm/ *verb* to arrange for someone to appear to be guilty (*informal*) □ **he has been framed** he is innocent, but the situation has been arranged in such a way that he appears guilty

franchise /ˈfræntʃaɪz/ *noun* **1.** a right granted to someone to do something, especially the right to vote in local or general elections **2.** a licence to trade using a brand name and paying a royalty for it ○ *He has bought a printing franchise* or *a hot dog franchise.* ■ *verb* to sell licences for people to trade using a brand name and paying a royalty ○ *His sandwich bar was so successful that he decided to franchise it.*

franchisee /ˌfræntʃaɪˈziː/ *noun* somebody who runs a franchise

franchiser /ˈfræntʃaɪzə/ *noun* somebody who licenses a franchise

franchising /ˈfræntʃaɪzɪŋ/ *noun* the act of selling a licence to trade as a franchise ○ *He runs his sandwich chain as a franchising operation.*

franchisor /ˈfræntʃaɪzə/ *noun* same as **franchiser**

franco /ˈfræŋkəʊ/ *adverb* free

frank /fræŋk/ *verb* to stamp the date and postage on a letter

franking machine /'fræŋkɪŋ mə ˌʃiːn/ *noun* a machine which marks the date and postage on letters so that the person sending them does not need to use stamps

fraud /frɔːd/ *noun* **1.** harming someone (by obtaining property or money from him) after making him believe something which is not true ○ *He got possession of the property by fraud.* ○ *He was accused of frauds relating to foreign currency.* □ **to obtain money by fraud** to obtain money by saying or doing something to cheat someone **2.** the act of deceiving someone in order to make money ○ *She was convicted of a series of frauds against insurance companies.*

COMMENT: Frauds are divided into **fraud by a director** and other fraud.

Fraud Squad /'frɔːd skwɒd/ *noun* a department of a police force which deals with cases of fraud

fraudster /'frɔːdstə/ *noun* a criminal who obtains money or other advantage by deceiving someone

fraudulent /'frɔːdjʊlənt/ *adjective* not honest, and aiming to deceive people

fraudulent conveyance /ˌfrɔːdjʊlənt kən'veɪəns/ *noun* an act of putting a property into someone else's possession to avoid it being seized to pay creditors

fraudulently /'frɔːdjʊləntli/ *adverb* not honestly ○ *goods imported fraudulently*

fraudulent misrepresentation /ˌfrɔːdjʊlənt mɪsˌreprɪzen'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a false statement made to deceive someone, or persuade someone to enter into a contract

fraudulent preference /ˌfrɔːdjʊlənt 'pref(ə)rəns/ *noun* payment made by an insolvent company to a particular creditor in preference to other creditors

fraudulent trading /ˌfrɔːdjʊlənt 'treɪdɪŋ/ *noun* the activity of carrying on the business of a company, knowing that the company is insolvent

fraudulent transaction /ˌfrɔːdjʊlənt træn'zækʃən/ *noun* a transaction which aims to cheat someone

free /friː/ *adjective*, *adverb* **1.** not costing any money ○ *price list sent free on request* ○ *He was given a free ticket to the exhibition.* ○ *The price includes free delivery.* ○ *Goods are delivered free.* □ **free of charge** with no payment to be made **2.** not in prison □ **to set someone free** to let someone leave prison ○ *The crowd attacked the police station and set the three prisoners free.* **3.** with no restrictions □ **free of tax**, **tax-free** with no tax having to be paid □ **free of duty**, **duty-free** with no duty to be paid **4.** not occupied ○ *Are there any tables free in the restaurant?* ○ *The solicitor will be free in a few minutes.* ○ *The hearing was delayed because there was no courtroom free.* ■ *verb* to release someone from a responsibility or from prison ○ *Will the new law free owners from responsibility to their tenants?* ○ *The new president freed all political prisoners.*

free circulation of goods /friː ˌsɜːkjʊ'leɪʃ(ə)n əv gʊdz/ *plural noun* movement of goods from one country to another without import quotas or other restrictions

free collective bargaining /ˌfriː kə ˌlektɪv 'bɑːgɪnɪŋ/ *noun* negotiations between employers and workers' representatives over wages and conditions

free competition /ˌfriː kɒmpə 'tɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the situation of being free to compete without government interference

free currency /ˌfriː 'kʌrənsi/ *noun* a currency which a government allows to be bought or sold without restriction

freedom /'friːdəm/ *noun* **1.** not being held in custody ○ *The president gave the accused man his freedom.* **2.** the ability to do something without restriction

freedom of assembly /ˌfriːdəm əv ə'semblɪ/ *noun* the right of being able to meet other people in a group without being afraid of prosecution, provided that you do not break the law

freedom of association /ˌfriːdəm əv əsəʊsi'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the right of being able to join together in a group with other people without being afraid of prosecution, provided that you do not break the law

freedom of information /ˌfriːdəm əv ɪnfəˈmeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* allowing citizens access to information which is held by government departments and other bodies

freedom of movement /ˌfriːdəm əv ˈmuːvmənt/ *noun* (*in the EU*) the fundamental right of citizens within the EU to be able to move to other EU countries to seek work

COMMENT: Freedom of movement has been extended to three types of people who are not economically active: students, retired people and people with sufficient private income.

freedom of speech /ˌfriːdəm əv ˈspiːtʃ/ *noun* the right of being able to say what you want without being afraid of prosecution, provided that you do not break the law

freedom of the press /ˌfriːdəm əv ðə ˈpres/ *noun* the right of being able to write and publish what you wish in a newspaper, or on radio or TV, without being afraid of prosecution, provided that you do not break the law

freedom of thought, conscience and religion /ˌfriːdəm əv ˌθɔːt ˌkɒnʃəns ən rɪˈlɪdʒən/ *noun* a qualified right to belief or religion, subject to limitations which are imposed if it is considered to be interfering with the public interest. It is found in Article 9 of the European Convention of Human Rights and was introduced into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998. (NOTE: By contrast, the freedom of thought is an absolute right and therefore cannot be restricted, even if it does interfere with the public interest.)

freehold /ˈfriːhəʊld/ *noun* the absolute right to hold land or property for an unlimited time without paying rent

freeholder /ˈfriːhəʊldə/ *noun* somebody who holds a freehold property

freehold property /ˈfriːhəʊld ˌprɒpəti/ *noun* property which the owner holds in freehold

free movement /ˌfriː ˈmuːvmənt/ *noun* a right for workers from any EU Member State to enter other Member States to work, and to remain as workers, with the same rights as the nationals of those Member States

free on board /ˌfriː ɒn ˈbɔːd/ *noun US* **1.** an international contract whereby the seller promises to deliver goods on board ship and notify the buyer of delivery, and the buyer arranges freight, pays the shipping cost and takes the risk once the goods have passed onto the ship **2.** a contract for sale whereby the price includes all the seller's costs until the goods are delivered to a certain place ▸ abbreviation **f.o.b.**

free pardon /ˌfriː ˈpɑːd(ə)n/ *noun* a pardon given to a convicted person where both the sentence and conviction are recorded as void

freeze /friːz/ *verb* to order a person not to move money or sell assets ○ *The court ordered the company's bank account to be frozen.*

freezing injunction /ˌfriːzɪŋ ɪn ˈdʒʌŋkʃən/ *noun* a court order to freeze the assets of a defendant or of a person who has gone overseas or of a company based overseas to prevent them being taken out of the country. The injunction can apply to assets within the jurisdiction of the court, or on a worldwide basis. (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has replaced **Mareva injunction**.)

freight charges /ˈfreɪt ˌtʃɑːdʒɪz/ *plural noun* money charged for carrying goods

fresh pursuit /ˌfreʃ pəˈsjuːt/ *noun* the act of chasing a thief, etc., to get back what has been stolen

friend /frend/ ◆ **litigation friend, next friend**

frisk /frɪsk/ *verb* to search someone by passing your hands over his or her clothes to see if that person is carrying a weapon or a package

frivolous complaint /ˌfrɪvələs kəm ˈpleɪnt/ *noun* a complaint or action which is not brought for a serious reason

frolic /ˈfrɒlɪk/ *noun* □ **frolic of his own** a situation where an employee does damage outside the normal course of employment, for which his or her employer cannot be held responsible

front /frʌnt/ *noun* an organisation or company which serves to hide criminal

activity ○ *His ice-cream shop was just a front for an extortion racket.*

front benches /ˌfrʌnt 'bentʃɪz/ *noun* two rows of seats in the House of Commons, facing each other with the table between them, where Government ministers or members of the Opposition Shadow Cabinet sit □ **the Government front bench**, **the Treasury bench** the seats where the members of the Government sit ◇ **the front benches 1.** the seat for the Opposition Shadow Cabinet **2.** the Shadow Cabinet

front organisation /'frʌnt ˌɔːgənaɪzeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an organisation which appears to be neutral, but is in fact an active supporter of a political party or is actively engaged in illegal trade

frozen /'frəʊz(ə)n/ ◗ **freeze**

frozen assets /ˌfrəʊz(ə)n 'æsets/ *plural noun* assets of a company which cannot be sold because someone has a claim against them

frustrate /frʌ'streɪt/ *verb* to prevent something, especially the terms of a contract, being fulfilled

frustration /frʌ'streɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a situation where the terms of a contract cannot possibly be fulfilled, e.g. when the contract requires the use of something which is destroyed

fugitive /'fjuːdʒɪtɪv/ *noun* a person who has done something illegal and is trying to avoid being found by the police

fugitive offender /ˌfjuːdʒɪtɪv ə 'fendə/ *noun* somebody running away from the police who, if he or she is caught, is sent back to the place where the offence was committed

fulfil /fʊl'fɪl/ *verb* to do everything which is promised in a contract ○ *The company has fulfilled all the terms of the agreement.* (NOTE: The US spelling is **fulfill**.)

full costs /ˌfʊl 'kɒsts/ *plural noun* all the costs of manufacturing a product, including both fixed and variable costs

full cover /ˌfʊl 'kʌvə/ *noun* insurance against all types of risk

full payment /ˌfʊl 'peɪmənt/ *noun* payment for all money owed

full rate /ˌfʊl 'reɪt/ *noun* full charge, with no reductions

full repairing lease /ˌfʊl rɪ'peərɪŋ ˌliːs/ *noun* a lease where the tenant has to pay for all repairs to the property

full title /ˌfʊl 'taɪt(ə)l/ *noun* the complete title of an Act of Parliament

full trial /ˌfʊl 'traɪəl/ *noun* a properly organised trial according to the correct procedure

functus officio /ˌfʌnktəs ɒ'fɪʃiəʊ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'no longer having power or jurisdiction' because the power has been exercised ○ *The justices' clerk asserted that the justices were functi officio.* (NOTE: The plural is **functi officio**.)

fund /fʌnd/ *noun* □ **to convert funds to one's own use** to use someone else's money for yourself

fundamental breach /ˌfʌndə 'ment(ə)l briːtʃ/ *noun* a breach of an essential or basic term of a contract by one party, entitling the other party to treat the contract as terminated

funds /fʌndz/ *plural noun* money available for a purpose

fungible goods /'fʌndʒəb(ə)l gʊdz/, **fungibles** *plural noun* goods such as seeds or coins which are measured by weight or counted

furandi ◗ **animus furandi**

furnished lettings /ˌfɜːnɪʃt 'letɪŋs/ *noun* furnished property to let

furniture department /ˌfɜːnɪtʃə dɪ 'pɑːtmənt/ *noun* a department in a large store which sells furniture

furniture depository /'fɜːnɪtʃə dɪ ˌpɒzɪt(ə)ri/ *noun* a warehouse where you can store household furniture

further information /ˌfɜːðə ˌɪnfə 'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a request made by a party through the court for another party to provide more details which will help clarify the case. The second party may refuse to respond for various reasons. (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has replaced **interrogatories**.)

future delivery /ˌfjuːtʃə dɪ'lɪv(ə)ri/ *noun* delivery at a later date

future estate /ˌfjuːtʃə ɪˈsteɪt/ *noun* an old term for the possession and enjoyment of an estate at some time in the future

future interest /ˌfjuːtʃə ˈɪntrəst/ *noun* an interest in property which will be enjoyed in the future

fuzz /fʌz/ *noun* the police (*slang*)

G

gag /gæg/ *verb* to try to stop someone talking or writing ○ *The government was accused of using the Official Secrets Act as a means of gagging the press.*

gain /geɪn/ *verb* to get, to obtain ○ *He gained some useful experience working in a bank.* □ **to gain control of a business** to buy more than 50% of the shares so that you can direct the business □ **to gain control of a council** to win a majority of the seats

gainful employment /ˌgeɪnf(ə)l ɪm 'plɔɪmənt/ *noun* employment for which someone is paid

gainfully employed /'geɪnf(ə)li/ *adjective* having regular paid work

gallery /'gæləri/ *noun* the seats above and around the benches in the House of Commons and House of Lords, where the public and journalists sit □ **the Speaker ordered the galleries to be cleared** the Speaker asked for all visitors to leave the Chamber

gallows /'gæləʊz/ *plural noun* wooden support from which criminals are executed by hanging

game licence /ˌgeɪm 'laɪs(ə)ns/ *noun* an official permit which allows someone to sell game

game of chance /ˌgeɪm əv 'tʃɑːns/ *noun* a game such as roulette where the result depends on luck

gaming licence /'geɪmɪŋ ˌlaɪs(ə)ns/ *noun* an official permit which allows someone or a club to organise games of chance

gang /gæŋ/ *noun* a group of criminals working together ○ *a drugs gang* ○ *a gang of jewel thieves*

gangland /'gæŋlænd/ *noun* all gangs considered as a group □ **a gangland murder** murder of a gangster by another gangster

gangster /'gæŋstə/ *noun* somebody who is a member of a gang of criminals ○ *The police shot three gangsters in the bank raid.*

gaol /dʒeɪl/ *noun* a prison. ◊ **jail** ■ *verb* to put someone in prison

gaoler /'dʒeɪlə/ *noun* somebody who works in a prison or who is in charge of a prison. ◊ **jailer**

garden leave clause /'gɑːdən liːv ˌklɔːz/ *noun* in employment contracts, a clause which prevents an employee attending the workplace during the course of the notice period, which can be anything up to a year, during which time they remain as an employee of the company and therefore continue to receive a salary (NOTE: Such a clause is used to safeguard the trade secrets of a business and minimise the effects of a highly skilled worker from leaving their current employment to join a rival company.)

garnish /'gɑːnɪʃ/ *verb* to tell a debtor to pay his or her debts, not to the creditor, but to a creditor of the creditor who has a judgment

garnishee /ˌgɑːnɪ'ʃiː/ *noun* a person who owes money to a creditor and is ordered by a court to pay that money to a creditor of the creditor, and not to the original creditor

garnishee order /ˌgɑːnɪ'ʃiː ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a court order, making a garnishee pay money to a creditor who has a judgment

garnishee proceedings /ˌgɑːnɪ'ʃiː prəˌsiːdɪŋz/ *noun* a court proceedings against a debtor leading to a garnishee order

gas chamber /'gæs ˌtʃeɪmbə/ *noun* a room in which a convicted prisoner is executed by poisonous gas

COMMENT: Used in some states in the USA.

gavel /'gæv(ə)l/ *noun* a small wooden hammer used by a chairman of a meeting to call the meeting to order ○ *The chairman banged his gavel on the table and shouted to the councillors to be quiet.*

COMMENT: There is no mace in the American Senate. Instead, a ceremonial gavel is placed on the Vice-President's desk when the Senate is in session.

gazump /gə'zʌmp/ *verb* □ **he was gazumped** his agreement to buy the house was cancelled because someone offered more money before exchange of contracts

gazumping /gə'zʌmpɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** (*of a buyer*) the act of offering more money for a house than another buyer has done, so as to be sure of buying it **2.** the act of removing a house from a sale which has been agreed, so as to accept a higher offer

GBH *abbreviation* grievous bodily harm

general amnesty /ˌdʒen(ə)rəl 'æmnəsti/ *noun* a pardon granted to all prisoners

general damages /ˌdʒen(ə)rəl 'dæmɪdʒɪz/ *plural noun* damages awarded by court to compensate for a loss which cannot be calculated, e.g. an injury

general lien /ˌdʒen(ə)rəl 'liːən/ *noun* the holding of goods or property until a debt has been paid

general office /'dʒen(ə)rəl ˌɒfɪs/ *noun* the main administrative office of a company

Geneva Convention, Geneva Conventions *noun* international treaties signed in Geneva, governing behaviour of countries at war ○ *The attacking army was accused of violating the Geneva Convention.*

Geneva Conventions for the Protection of Victims of War (1949) *noun* an international treaty relating to the treatment of civilians and other non-combatants

Geneva Conventions on Negotiable Instruments (1930) *noun* an international treaty relating to international bills of exchange, cheques, letters of credit, etc.

gentleman's agreement /'dʒent(ə)lmənz əˌgriːmənt/**, gentlemen's agreement** *US noun* a verbal agreement between two parties who trust each other (NOTE: A gentleman's agreement is not usually enforceable by law.)

genuine /'dʒenjuɪn/ *adjective* true or real ○ *a genuine Picasso* ○ *a genuine leather purse* □ **the genuine article** real article, not an imitation

genuine dispute /ˌdʒenjuɪn dɪ 'spjuːt/ *noun* a real conflict between parties ○ *The ECJ refused to hear the reference because it considered there was no genuine dispute between the parties.*

genuineness /'dʒenjʊɪnnəs/ *noun* the fact of not being an imitation

genuine purchaser /ˌdʒenjuɪn 'pɜːtʃɪsə/ *noun* someone who is really interested in buying

geographic profiling /dʒiːəˌgræfɪk 'prəʊfaɪlɪŋ/ *noun* the science of predicting where a criminal lives, based on where and when the crimes were committed, based on the principle that most crimes are carried out relatively locally

geoprofiling /'dʒiːəʊˌprəʊfaɪlɪŋ/ *noun* same as **geographic profiling**

germane /dʒɜː'meɪn/ *adjective* referring to, or relevant to ○ *The argument is not germane to the motion.*

get /get/**, gett** *noun* a divorce according to Jewish religious custom, where the husband agrees to a divorce which his wife has requested

gift /gɪft/ *verb* to give

COMMENT: A gift is irrevocable.

gift inter vivos /ˌgɪft ɪntə 'viːvəʊs/ *noun* a present given by a living person to another living person

Gillette defence /dʒɪ'let dɪˌfens/ *noun* a defence against a claim for infringement of patent, by which the defendant claims that they were using the process before it was patented

COMMENT: Called after the case of *Gillette v. Anglo American Trading*.

gloss /glɒs/ *noun* **1.** a note which explains or gives a meaning to a word or phrase **2.** an interpretation given to a word or phrase ■ *verb* □ **to gloss over** to cover up a mistake or fault ○ *The report glosses over the errors made by the officials in the department.*

godfather /'gɒdfɑːðə/ *noun* a Mafia boss (*slang*)

going equipped for stealing /ˌgəʊɪŋ ɪˌkwɪpd fə 'stiːlɪŋ/ *noun* the notifiable offence of carrying tools which could be used for burglary

golden rule /ˌgəʊld(ə)n 'ruːl/ *noun* a rule that when interpreting a statute, the court should interpret the wording of the statute to give the closest effect to the one Parliament intended when passing the law

good behaviour /ˌgʊd bɪ'heɪvjə/ *noun* a way of behaving this is peaceful and lawful ○ *The magistrates bound him over to be of good behaviour.* ○ *She was sentenced to four years in prison, but was released early for good behaviour.*

good cause /ˌgʊd 'kɔːz/ *noun* a reason which is accepted in law ○ *The court asked the accused to show good cause why he should not be sent to prison.* (NOTE: not used with **'the'**)

good consideration /gʊd kənˌsɪdə 'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* proper consideration

good faith /ˌgʊd 'feɪθ/ *noun* general honesty □ **in good faith** in an honest way □ **he acted in good faith** he acted honestly □ **to buy something in good faith** to buy something honestly, in the course of an honest transaction ○ *He bought the car in good faith, not knowing that it had been stolen.*

goods /gʊdz/ *plural noun* items which can be moved and are for sale □ **goods (held) in bond** goods held by the customs until duty has been paid

goods and chattels /ˌgʊdz ən 'tʃæt(ə)lz/ *plural noun* movable property

goods train /'gʊdz treɪn/ *noun* a train for carrying freight

good title /ˌgʊd 'taɪt(ə)l/ *noun* a title to a property which gives the owner full rights of ownership

goodwill /gʊd'wɪl/ *noun* the good reputation of a business and its contacts with its customers, e.g. the name of the product which it sells or its popular appeal to customers ○ *She paid £10,000 for the goodwill of the shop and £4,000 for the stock.*

COMMENT: Goodwill can include the trading reputation, the patents, the trade names used, the value of a 'good site', etc., and is very difficult to establish accurately. It is an intangible asset, and so is not shown as an asset in a company's accounts, unless it figures as part of the purchase price paid when acquiring another company.

go to law /ˌgəʊ tə 'lɔː/ *verb* to start legal proceedings about something ○ *We went to law to try to regain our property.*

government contractor /ˌgʌv(ə)nmənt kən'træktə/ *noun* a company which supplies goods or services to the government on contract (NOTE: **government** can take a singular or plural verb: *The government have decided to repeal the Act*; *The government feels it is not time to make a statement.* Note also that the word **government** is used, especially by officials, without the article 'the': *Government has decided that the plan will be turned down*; *The plan is funded by central government.*)

government-controlled /ˌgʌv(ə)nmənt kən'trəʊld/ *noun* ruled by a government

government economic indicators /ˌgʌv(ə)nmənt ˌiːkənɒmɪk 'ɪndɪkeɪtəz/ *plural noun* figures which show how the country's economy is going to perform in the short or long term

government-regulated price /ˌgʌv(ə)nmənt ˌregjʊleɪtɪd 'praɪs/ *noun* a price which is imposed by the government

government stocks /'gʌv(ə)nmənt stɒkz/ *plural noun* government securities

gown /gaʊn/ *noun* a long black item of clothing worn by a lawyer, judge, etc., over normal clothes when appearing in court. ◊ **silk**

grace /greɪs/ *noun* a favour shown by granting a delay □ **to give a debtor a pe-**

riod of grace, **two weeks' grace** to allow a debtor two weeks to pay

graduated pension scheme /ˌgrædʒueɪtɪd 'penʃən skiːm/ *noun* a pension scheme where the benefit is calculated as a percentage of the salary of each person in the scheme

graft /grɑːft/ *noun* the corruption of officials (*informal*)

grand jury /ˌgrænd 'dʒʊri/ *noun US* a group of 12–24 jurors who meet before a trial to decide if an indictment should be issued to start criminal proceedings

grand larceny /ˌgrænd 'lɑːs(ə)ni/ *noun US* the theft of goods valued at more than a specified price

grant /grɑːnt/ *noun* **1.** the act of giving something to someone permanently or temporarily by a written document, where the object itself cannot be physically transferred ○ *The government made a grant of land to settlers.* **2.** money given by the government, local authority or other organisation to help pay for something ○ *The institute has a government grant to cover the cost of the development programme.* ○ *The local authority has allocated grants towards the costs of the scheme.* ○ *Many charities give grants for educational projects.* ■ *verb* to agree to give someone something or allow someone to do something ○ *to grant someone permission to build a house* or *to leave the country* ○ *The local authority granted the company an interest-free loan to start up the new factory.* ○ *He was granted parole.* ○ *The government granted an amnesty to all political prisoners.*

grant-aided scheme /ˌgrɑːnt 'eɪdɪd skiːm/ *noun* a scheme which is backed by funds from the government

grantee /grɑːn'tiː/ *noun* somebody who is assigned an interest in a property or who receives a grant

grant-in-aid /ˌgrɑːnt ɪn 'eɪd/ *noun* money given by central government to local government to help pay for a project

grant of letters of administration /ˌgrɑːnt əv ˌletəz əv ədˌmɪnɪ 'streɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the giving of documents to administrators to enable them to administer the estate of a dead person who has not made a will

grant of probate /ˌgrɑːnt əv 'prəʊbeɪt/ *noun* an official document proving that a will is genuine, given to the executors so that they can act on the terms of the will

grantor /grɑːn'tɔː/ *noun* a person who assigns an interest in a property, especially to a lender, or who makes a grant

grass /grɑːs/ *noun* a criminal who gives information to the police about other criminals. ◊ **supergrass** ■ *verb* □ **to grass on someone** to give information to the police about someone

grass roots /ˌgrɑːs 'ruːts/ *noun* the ordinary members of society or of a political party ○ *What is the grass-roots reaction to the constitutional changes?* ○ *The party has considerable support at grass-roots level.* ○ *The Chairman has no grass-root support.*

grata ◆ **persona non grata**

gratia ◆ **ex gratia**

gratis /'grɑːtɪs/ *adverb* not costing anything, or without paying anything ○ *We got into the exhibition gratis.*

gratuitous /grə'tjuːɪtəs/ *adjective* **1.** without justifiable cause ○ *scenes containing gratuitous sex and violence* **2.** without money being offered

gratuitous promise /grəˌtjuːɪtəs 'prɒmɪs/ *noun* a promise that cannot be enforced because no money has been involved

Gray's Inn /ˌgreɪz 'ɪn/ *noun* one of the four Inns of Court in London

Great Seal /ˌgreɪt 'siːl/ *noun* a seal kept by the Lord Chancellor, used for sealing important public documents on behalf of the Queen

Green Book /ˌgriːn 'bʊk/ *noun* the book of procedural rules of the County Courts

green card /ˌgriːn 'kɑːd/ *noun* a registration card for a non-US citizen going to live permanently in the USA

green form /'griːn fɔːm/ *noun* formerly, the form upon which an application for both legal advice and financial assistance (legal aid) could be made □ **the green form scheme** a scheme where a solicitor will give advice to someone

free of charge or at a reduced rate, if the client has filled in the green form

Green Paper /ˌgriːn 'peɪpə/ *noun* a report from the British government on proposals for a new law to be discussed in Parliament

grievance /'griːv(ə)ns/ *noun* a complaint made by an employee to the employers

grievous bodily harm /ˌgriːvəs ˌbɒdɪli 'hɑːm/ *noun* the crime of causing serious physical injury to someone. Abbreviation **GBH**

gross /grəʊs/ *adjective* **1.** (*of a sum of money*) without deductions **2.** serious

gross earnings /ˌgrəʊs 'ɜːnɪŋz/ *noun* total earnings before tax and other deductions

gross indecency /ˌgrəʊs ɪn 'diːs(ə)nsi/ *noun* a crime entailing unlawful sexual contact between men or with a child, which falls short of full sexual intercourse

gross negligence /ˌgrəʊs 'neglɪdʒəns/ *noun* the act showing very serious neglect of duty towards other people

gross receipts /ˌgrəʊs rɪ'siːts/ *plural noun* total amount of money received before expenses are deducted

gross weight /ˌgrəʊs 'weɪt/ *noun* the weight of both the container and its contents

ground landlord /'graʊnd ˌlændlɔːd/ *noun* a person or company which owns the freehold of a property which is then leased and subleased

ground lease /'graʊnd liːs/ *noun* the first lease on a freehold building

ground rent /'graʊnd rent/ *noun* rent paid by a lessee to the ground landlord

grounds /graʊndz/ *plural noun* basic reasons ○ *Does he have good grounds for complaint?* ○ *There are no grounds on which we can be sued.* ○ *What are the grounds for the claim for damages?* (NOTE: can be used in the singular if only one reason exists: *The judge refused the application on the ground that he had discretion to remove the hearsay evidence from the report.*)

guarantee /ˌgærən'tiː/ *noun* **1.** a legal document which promises that an item purchased is of good quality and will work properly ○ *certificate of guarantee* or *guarantee certificate* ○ *The guarantee lasts for two years.* ○ *The dishwasher is sold with a two-year guarantee.* □ **the car is still under guarantee** the car is still covered by the maker's certificate of guarantee **2.** a promise made by someone that they will do something such as pay another person's debts if the other person fails to do it. Compare **indemnity** (NOTE: In English law, a guarantee must usually be in writing; the person making a guarantee is secondarily liable if the person who is primarily liable defaults.) **3.** something given as a security ○ *to leave share certificates as a guarantee* ■ *verb* to give a promise that something will happen □ **to guarantee a debt** to promise that you will pay a debt incurred by someone else if that person fails to pay it □ **to guarantee an associated company** to promise that an associate company will pay its debts □ **to guarantee a bill of exchange** to promise to pay a bill □ **the product is guaranteed for twelve months** the maker states that the product will work well for twelve months, and promises to mend it free of charge if it breaks down within that period

guarantor /ˌgærən'tɔː/ *noun* somebody who gives a guarantee □ **to stand guarantor for someone** to promise to pay someone's debts

guaranty /'gær(ə)ntiː/ *noun US* same as **guarantee**

guard /gɑːd/ *noun* **1.** somebody whose job is to protect people or property ○ *There were three guards on duty at the door of the bank* or *three bank guards were on duty.* ○ *The prisoner was shot by the guards as he tried to escape.* **2.** the state of being protected by a guard ○ *The prisoners were brought into the courtroom under armed guard.* ■ *verb* to prevent someone being harmed or from escaping ○ *The building is guarded by a fence and ten guard dogs.* ○ *The prisoners are guarded night and day.*

guardian /'gɑːdiən/ *noun* an adult person or an authority such as the High Court appointed by law to act on behalf

of someone such as a child who cannot act on his or her own behalf

guardian ad litem /ˌgɑːdiən æd ˈliːtəm/ *noun* somebody who acts on behalf of a minor who is a defendant in a court case

guardianship /ˈgɑːdiənʃɪp/ *noun* the state of being a guardian

guardianship order /ˈgɑːdiənʃɪp ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a court order appointing a local authority to be the guardian of a child

guerilla /gəˈrɪlə/ *noun* an armed person who is not a regular soldier who engages in unofficial war ○ *The train was attacked by guerillas.* ○ *The appeal was made by a guerilla radio station.*

guidelines /ˈgaɪdlaɪnz/ *plural noun* unofficial suggestions from the government or some other body as to how something should be done ○ *The government has issued guidelines on increases in wages and prices.* ○ *The Law Society has issued guidelines to its members on dealing with rape cases.* ○ *The Secretary of State can issue guidelines for expenditure.* ○ *The Lord Justice said he was not laying down guidelines for sentencing.*

guillotine /ˈgɪlətiːn/ *noun* a machine used in France for executing criminals by cutting off their heads ■ *verb* to execute someone by cutting his or her head off with a guillotine

guilt /gɪlt/ *noun* being guilty, the state of having committed a crime or done some other legal wrong □ **he admitted his guilt** he admitted that he had committed the crime

guilt by association /ˌgɪlt baɪ əˌsəʊsiˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the presumption that a person is guilty because of his or her connection with a guilty person

guilty /ˈgɪlti/ *adjective* **1.** finding after a trial that a person has done something which is against the law ○ *He was found guilty of libel.* ○ *The company was guilty of evading the VAT regulations.* □ **to find someone guilty**, **to return a verdict of guilty, to return a guilty verdict** (*of a judge or jury*) to say at the end of the trial that the accused is guilty **2.** □ **to plead guilty** (*of an accused person*) to say at the beginning of a trial that you did commit the crime of which you are accused □ **to plead not guilty** to say at the beginning of a trial that you did not commit the crime of which you are accused ○ *The accused pleaded not guilty to the charge of murder, but pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of manslaughter.*

gun /gʌn/ *noun* a weapon used for shooting ○ *The police are not allowed to carry guns.* ○ *They shouted to the robbers to drop their guns.*

gun court /ˈgʌn kɔːt/ *noun* a court that hears only those cases that deal with gun-related crimes

gun down /ˌgʌn ˈdaʊn/ *verb* to kill someone with a gun ○ *He was gunned down in the street outside his office.* (NOTE: **gunned – gunning**)

gunman /ˈgʌnmən/ *noun* a man who carries and uses a gun ○ *The security van was held up by three gunmen.*

gunpoint /ˈgʌnpɔɪnt/ *noun* □ **at gunpoint** with a gun pointing at you ○ *He was forced at gunpoint to open the safe.*

gunshot /ˈgʌnʃɒt/ *noun* the result of shooting with a gun ○ *He died of gunshot wounds.*

H

habeas corpus /ˌheɪbiəs 'kɔːpəs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'may you have the body': legal remedy against being wrongly imprisoned

habendum /hæ'bendəm/ *noun* a section of a conveyance which gives details of how the property is to be assigned to the purchaser, using the words 'to hold'

habitual /hə'bɪtʃuəl/ *adjective* (*of a person*) doing something frequently □ **habitual criminal**, **habitual offender** person who has been convicted of a similar crime at least twice before □ **habitual drunkard** somebody who drinks alcohol so frequently that he or she is almost always dangerous or incapable

habitual residence /həˌbɪtʃuəl 'rezɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* **1.** the fact of living normally in a place **2.** the place where someone normally lives

Hague conventions /'heɪg kən ˌvenʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* international agreements regarding the definition of war, and the barring of the use of chemical and biological weapons. ◊ **Geneva Convention**

hallmark /'hɔːlmɑːk/ *noun* a mark put on gold or silver items to show that the metal is of the correct quality ■ *verb* to put a hallmark on a piece of gold or silver ○ *a hallmarked spoon*

hand /hænd/ *noun* **1.** □ **by hand** using the hands, not a machine □ **to send a letter by hand** to ask someone to carry and deliver a letter personally, not sending it through the post **2.** □ **in hand**, **on hand** *US* kept in reserve **3.** □ **goods left on hand** goods which have not been sold and are left with the retailer or producer **4.** □ **out of hand** immediately, without taking time to think ○ *The justices dismissed his evidence out of hand.* **5.** □ **to hand** here, present □ **I have the invoice to hand** I have the invoice in front of me **6.** □ **to change hands** to be sold to a new owner ○ *The shop changed hands for £100,000.*

handcuff /'hændkʌf/ *verb* to put handcuffs on someone

handcuffed /'hændkʌfd/ *adjective* secured by handcuffs ○ *The accused appeared in court handcuffed to two policemen.*

handcuffs /'hændkʌfs/ *plural noun* two metal rings chained together which are locked round the wrists of someone who is being arrested

hand down /ˌhænd 'daʊn/ *verb* **1.** to pass property from one generation to another ○ *The house has been handed down from father to son since the 19th century.* **2.** □ **to hand down a verdict** to announce a verdict

handgun /'hændgʌn/ *noun* a small gun which is carried in the hand ○ *The police found six handguns when they searched the car.*

handling /'hændlɪŋ/ *noun* the management of a situation or the movement and transfer of goods □ **handling stolen goods** the notifiable offence of receiving or selling things which you know to have been stolen

COMMENT: Handling stolen goods is a more serious crime than theft, and the penalty can be higher.

hand over /ˌhænd 'əʊvə/ *verb* to pass something to someone ○ *She handed over the documents to the lawyer.* □ **he handed over to his deputy** he passed his responsibilities to his deputy

hand up /ˌhænd 'ʌp/ *verb* to pass to someone who is in a higher place ○ *The exhibit was handed up to the judge.*

handwriting /'hændraɪtɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** writing produced with a pen or pencil and not with a machine □ **send a letter of application in your own handwriting** written by you with a pen, and not typed **2.** a particular way of committing a crime which identifies a criminal (*slang*)

handwriting expert /ˌhændraɪtɪŋ 'ekspɜːt/ *noun* somebody who is able to identify somebody by examining his or her handwriting

hang /hæŋ/ *verb* to execute someone by hanging him or her by a rope round the neck. ◊ **hung** (NOTE: **hanging – hanged**. Note: not **hung**.)

hanging /'hæŋɪŋ/ *noun* the act of executing someone by hanging ○ *The hangings took place in front of the prison.*

hangman /'hæŋmən/ *noun* a man who executes criminals by hanging them

harass /'hærəs, hə'ræs/ *verb* to worry or to bother someone, especially by continually checking up on them

harassment /'hærəsmənt, hə 'ræsmənt/ *noun* the action of harassing someone ○ *He complained of police harassment* or *of harassment by the police.*

harassment restraining order /ˌhærəsmənt rɪ'streɪnɪŋ ˌɔːdə/ *noun* same as **restraining order**

harbour /'hɑːbə/ *verb* to give shelter and protection to a criminal

hard /hɑːd/ *adjective* □ **to drive a hard bargain** to be a difficult negotiator □ **to strike a hard bargain** to agree a deal where the terms are favourable to you

hard bargain /ˌhɑːd 'bɑːgɪn/ *noun* a bargain with difficult terms

hard cash /ˌhɑːd 'kæʃ/ *noun* money in notes and coins which is ready at hand ○ *He paid out £100 in hard cash for the chair.*

hardened criminal /ˌhɑːdənd 'krɪmɪn(ə)l/ *noun* a criminal who has committed many crimes and who will never go straight

hard labour /ˌhɑːd 'leɪbə/ *noun* formerly, the punishment of sending someone to prison to do hard manual labour

harmonise /'hɑːmənaɪz/, **harmonize** *verb* (*in the EU*) to try to make things such as tax rates or VAT rates the same in all Member States

hawkish /'hɔːkɪʃ/ *adjective* acting like a hawk ○ *The agreement will not satisfy the more hawkish members of the Cabinet.*

hazard /'hæzəd/ *noun* a danger

H-block /'eɪtʃ blɒk/ *noun* a building in a prison built with a central section and two end wings, forming the shape of the letter H

headed paper /ˌhedɪd 'peɪpə/ *noun* a notepaper with the name and address of the company printed on it

head lease /'hed liːs/ *noun* the first lease given by a freeholder to a tenant

head licence /'hed ˌlaɪs(ə)ns/ *noun* the first licence given by the owner of a patent or copyright to someone who will use it

headnote /'hednəʊt/ *noun* a note at the beginning of a law report, giving a summary of the case

head of damage /ˌhed əv 'dæmɪdʒ/ *noun* an item of damage in a pleading or claim

head of department /ˌhed əv dɪ 'pɑːtmənt/ *noun* the person in charge of a department

head of government /ˌhed əv 'gʌv(ə)nmənt/ *noun* the leader of a country's government

headquarters /hed'kwɔːtəz/ *plural noun* main office

heads of agreement /ˌhedz əv ə 'griːmənt/ *noun* a draft agreement containing the most important points but not all the details

Health and Safety at Work Act /ˌhelθ ən ˌseɪfti ət 'wɜːk ˌækt/ *noun* an Act of Parliament which regulates what employers must do to make sure that their employees are kept healthy and safe at work

hear /hɪə/ *verb* **1.** to sense a sound with the ears ○ *You can hear the printer in the next office.* ○ *The traffic makes so much noise that I cannot hear my phone ringing.* **2.** to have a letter or a phone call from someone ○ *We have not heard from them for some time.* ○ *We hope to hear from the lawyers within a few days.* **3.** to listen to the arguments in a court case ○ *The judge heard the case in chambers.* ○ *The case will be heard next month.* ○ *The*

court has heard the evidence for the defence. **4.** □ **hear! hear!** words used in a meeting to show that you agree with the person speaking

hearing /'hɪərɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** a case which is being heard by a committee, tribunal or court of law ○ *The hearing about the planning application lasted ten days.* □ **hearing in private** court case which is heard with no member of the public present **2.** the process of a case being considered by an official body ○ *He asked to be given a hearing by the full council so that he could state his case.*

hearsay evidence /ˌhɪəseɪ 'evɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* evidence by a witness who has heard it from another source, but did not witness the acts personally

COMMENT: Hearsay evidence may not be given as much weight by the court as direct witness evidence. If a party intends to rely on hearsay evidence, they must serve notice to that effect.

heavily /'hevɪli/ *adverb* □ **he had to borrow heavily to pay the fine** he had to borrow a lot of money

heavy /'hevi/ *adjective* severe or harsh ○ *The looters were given heavy jail sentences.* ○ *She was sentenced to pay a heavy fine.* ■ *noun* a strong man employed to frighten people (*slang*)

heir /eə/ *noun* somebody who receives or will receive property when someone dies ○ *His heirs split the estate between them.*

heir apparent /ˌeər ə'pærənt/ *noun* an heir who will certainly inherit if a person dies before him

heiress /'eəres/ *noun* a female heir

heirloom /'eəluːm/ *noun* a piece of family property such as silver, a painting or a jewel which has been handed down for several generations ○ *The burglars stole some family heirlooms.*

heir presumptive /ˌeə prɪ'zʌmptɪv/ *noun* an heir who will inherit if a person dies at this moment, but whose inheritance may be altered in the future

heirs, successors and assigns /ˌeəz sək ˌsesəz ənd ə'saɪnz/ *plural noun* people who have inherited property and had it transferred to them

heist /haɪst/ *noun* a holdup (*slang*)

henceforth /hens'fɔːθ/ *adverb* from this time on ○ *Henceforth it will be more difficult to avoid customs examinations.*

here- /hɪə/ *prefix* this time, or this place

hereafter /hɪər'ɑːftə/ *adverb* from this time or point on

hereby /hɪə'baɪ/ *adverb* in this way ○ *We hereby revoke the agreement of January 1st 1982.*

hereditament /ˌherɪ'dɪtəmənt/ *noun* property, including land and buildings, which can be inherited

hereditary /hə'redɪt(ə)ri/ *adjective* passed from one member of a family to another

hereditary office /həˌredɪt(ə)ri 'ɒfɪs/ *noun* an official position which is inherited

herein /ˌhɪər'ɪn/ *adverb* in this document ○ *the conditions stated herein* ○ *see the reference herein above*

hereinafter /ˌhɪərɪn'ɑːftə/ *adverb* stated later in this document ○ *the conditions hereinafter listed*

hereof /ˌhɪər'ɒv/ *adverb* of this □ **in confirmation hereof we attach a bank statement** to confirm this we attach a bank statement

hereto /ˌhɪə'tuː/ *adverb* to this ○ *according to the schedule of payments attached hereto* □ **as witness hereto** as a witness of this fact □ **the parties hereto** the parties to this agreement

heretofore /'hɪətəˌfɔː/ *adverb* previously or earlier ○ *the parties heretofore acting as trustees*

hereunder /ˌhɪər'ʌndə/ *adverb* under this heading, or below this phrase ○ *see the documents listed hereunder*

herewith /hɪə'wɪð/ *adverb* together with this letter ○ *please find the cheque enclosed herewith*

Her Majesty's government /ˌhɜː ˌmædʒəstiz 'gʌv(ə)nmənt/ *noun* the official title of the British government

Her Majesty's pleasure /ˌhɜː ˌmædʒəstiz 'pleʒə/ *noun* □ **detention at *or* during Her Majesty's pleasure** imprisonment for an indefinite period, until the Home Secretary decides that a prisoner can be released

COMMENT: Used as a punishment for people under a disability and children who commit murder.

hidden asset /ˌhɪd(ə)n 'æset/ *noun* an asset which is valued in the company's accounts at much less than its true market value

hidden reserves /ˌhɪd(ə)n rɪ'zɜːvz/ *plural noun* illegal reserves which are not declared in the company's balance sheet

High Court /haɪ 'kɔːt/**, High Court of Justice** /haɪ kɔːt əv 'dʒʌstɪs/ *noun* the main civil court in England and Wales, based on the six circuits

High Court of Justiciary /ˌhaɪ kɔːt əv dʒʌ'stɪʃiəri/ *noun* the supreme criminal court of Scotland

high judicial office /haɪ dʒuːˌdɪʃ(ə)l 'ɒfɪs/ *noun* an important position in the legal system, e.g. Lord Chancellor, a High Court judge, etc.

high office /ˌhaɪ 'ɒfɪs/ *noun* an important position or job

high official /ˌhaɪ ə'fɪʃ(ə)l/ *noun* an important person in a government department

high seas /ˌhaɪ 'siːz/ *plural noun* the part of the sea which is further than three miles or five kilometres from a coast, and so is under international jurisdiction (NOTE: usually used with 'the': *an accident on the high seas*)

High Sheriff /ˌhaɪ 'ʃerɪf/ *noun* a senior representative appointed by the government in a county

high treason /ˌhaɪ 'triːz(ə)n/ *noun* a formal way of referring to treason

highway /'haɪweɪ/ *noun* a road or path with a right of way which anyone may use

COMMENT: The Highway Code is not itself part of English law.

Highway Code /ˌhaɪweɪ 'kəʊd/ *noun* the rules which govern the behaviour of people and vehicles using roads

hijack /'haɪdʒæk/ *noun* the act of taking control by force of a plane, ship, train, bus or lorry which is moving ○ *The hijack was organised by a group of opponents to the government.* ■ *verb* to take control by force of a moving plane, ship, train, bus or lorry, with passengers on board ○ *The plane was hijacked by six armed terrorists.* ○ *The bandits hijacked the lorry and killed the driver.*

hijacker /'haɪdʒækə/ *noun* somebody who hijacks a vehicle

hijacking /'haɪdʒækɪŋ/ *noun* the act of taking control of a moving plane, ship, train, bus or lorry by force ○ *The hijacking took place just after the plane took off.* ○ *There have been six hijackings so far this year.*

Hilary /'hɪləri/ *noun* **1.** one of the four sittings of the law courts **2.** one of the four law terms

hire purchase agreement /ˌhaɪə 'pɜːtʃɪs əˌgriːmənt/ *noun* a contract to pay for something by instalments

hire-purchase company /ˌhaɪə 'pɜːtʃɪs ˌkʌmp(ə)ni/ *noun* a company which provides money for hire purchase (NOTE: The US term is **installment plan**.)

hirer /'haɪrə/ *noun* somebody who hires something

hit and run /ˌhɪt ən 'rʌn/ *noun* a situation where a vehicle hits someone and continues without stopping

hit man /'hɪt mæn/ *noun* a person who will kill someone for a fee (*slang*)

hoax /həʊks/ *noun* an action which is designed to trick someone into believing something □ **hoax phone call** call to inform the police or fire service of a dangerous situation which does not exist

hoc ▸ ad hoc

hold /həʊld/ *verb* **1.** to keep someone in custody ○ *The prisoners are being held in the police station.* ○ *Twenty people were held in the police raid.* ○ *She was held for six days without being able to see her lawyer.* **2.** to give as a formal decision ○ *The court held that there was no case to answer.* ○ *The appeal judge held that the defendant was not in breach of his statutory duty.* (NOTE: **holding – held**)

holder /'həʊldə/ *noun* **1.** somebody who owns or keeps something ○ *the holder of an insurance policy* or *a policy holder* ○ *She is a British passport holder* or *she is the holder of a British passport.* **2.** the person to whom a cheque is made payable and who has possession of it **3.** somebody who is holding a bill of ex-

change or promissory note **4.** something which keeps or protects something

holder in due course /ˌhəʊldə ɪn djuː ˈkɔːs/ *noun* somebody who takes a bill, promissory note or cheque before it becomes overdue or is dishonoured

holding /ˈhəʊldɪŋ/ *noun* a ruling given by a court of law, especially one that decides a legal issue raised by a particular case

holding charge /ˈhəʊldɪŋ tʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* a minor charge brought against someone so that he or she can be held in custody while more serious charges are being prepared

holding over /ˈhəʊldɪŋ əʊvə/, **holdover** *US noun* a situation where a person who had a lease for a period continues to occupy the property after the end of the lease

hold out /ˌhəʊld ˈaʊt/ *verb* **1.** to behave in a way which misleads others □ **he held himself out as a director of the company** he behaved as if he were a director of the company **2.** □ **to hold out for** to ask for something and refuse to act until you get what you asked for ○ *He held out for a 50% discount.*

hold to /ˈhəʊld tuː/ *verb* not to allow something to change □ **we will try to hold him to the contract** we will try to make sure that he follows the terms of the contract □ **the government hopes to hold wage increases to 5%** the government hopes that wage increases will not be more than 5%

hold up /ˌhəʊld ˈʌp/ *verb* **1.** to go into a bank, stop a lorry, etc., in order to steal money ○ *Six gunmen held up the bank* or *the security van.* **2.** to stay at a high level ○ *Share prices have held up well.* ○ *Sales held up during the tourist season.* **3.** to delay ○ *The shipment has been held up at the customs.* ○ *Payment will be held up until the contract has been signed.*

hold-up /ˈhəʊld ʌp/ *noun* **1.** the act of holding up a bank, etc. ○ *The gang committed three armed hold-ups on the same day.* **2.** a delay ○ *The traffic congestion caused hold-ups for people on their way to work.*

holiday entitlement /ˈhɒlɪdeɪ ɪn ˌtaɪt(ə)lmənt/ *noun* the number of days' paid holiday which an employee has the right to take

holiday pay /ˈhɒlɪdeɪ peɪ/ *noun* a salary which is still paid during the holiday

holograph /ˈhɒləgrɑːf/ *noun* a document written by hand

holographic will /ˌhɒləgræfɪk ˈwɪl/ *noun US* same as **holograph will**

holograph will /ˈhɒləgrɑːf ˌwɪl/ *noun* a will, written out by hand, and not necessarily witnessed

home court /ˈhəʊm kɔːt/ *noun* the County Court for the district in which a defendant lives or has his or her address for service (NOTE: The US term is **domestic court**.)

homeless person /ˌhəʊmləs ˈpɜːs(ə)n/ *noun* a person with no fixed accommodation, who is therefore eligible for the provision of accommodation by a local council

home market /ˌhəʊm ˈmɑːkɪt/ *noun* the market in the country where the selling company is based

Home Office /ˈhəʊm ˌɒfɪs/ *noun* British government ministry dealing with internal affairs including law and order, the police and prisons

Home Office pathologist /həʊm ˌɒfɪs pəˈθɒlədʒɪst/ *noun* an official government pathologist employed by the Home Office to examine corpses

Home Secretary /ˌhəʊm ˈsekrət(ə)ri/ *noun* a member of the British government, the minister in charge of the Home Office, dealing with law and order, the police and prisons

COMMENT: In most countries the government department dealing with the internal order of the country is called the Ministry of the Interior, with a Minister of the Interior in charge.

homestead /ˈhəʊmsted/ *noun US* the house and land where a family lives

COMMENT: A homestead cannot be the subject of a sale by court order to satisfy creditors.

home trade /ˌhəʊm ˈtreɪd/ *noun* trade in the country where a company is based

homicidal /ˌhɒmɪˈsaɪd(ə)l/ *adjective* (*of a person*) likely or wanting to commit murder

homicide /'hɒmɪsaɪd/ *noun* **1.** the accidental or illegal killing of a person ○ *He was found guilty of homicide.* ○ *The homicide rate has doubled in the last ten years.* **2.** murder

COMMENT: Homicide covers the crimes of murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

Homicide Squad /'hɒmɪˌsaɪd skwɒd/ *noun US* a department of a police force which deals with cases of murder

honest /'ɒnɪst/ *adjective* not lying or cheating □ **to play the honest broker** to act for the parties in a negotiation to try to help them agree to a solution

honestly /'ɒnɪstli/ *adverb* acting in an open and truthful way

honesty /'ɒnɪsti/ *noun* the fact of being open and truthful ○ *The court praised the witness for her honesty in informing the police of the crime.*

honorarium /ˌɒnə'reəriəm/ *noun* a sum of money paid to a professional person such as an accountant or a lawyer which is less than a full fee

honour /'ɒnə/ *verb* to accept and pay a cheque or bill of exchange (NOTE: The US spelling is **honor**.) □ **to honour a debt** to pay a debt because it is owed and is correct □ **to honour a signature** to pay something because the signature is correct

hoodlum /'huːdləm/ *noun US* a gangster

hooligan /'huːlɪgən/ *noun* somebody who behaves violently in public ○ *The police put up barriers to prevent the football hooligans from damaging property.*

hooliganism /'huːlɪgənɪz(ə)m/ *noun* violent behaviour □ **football hooliganism** violent behaviour by football supporters in connection with football matches

hopper /'hɒpə/ *noun US* a box where bills are put after being introduced in the House of Representatives

horse-trading /'hɔːs ˌtreɪdɪŋ/ *noun* bargaining between groups of people to obtain a general agreement for something ○ *After a period of horse-trading, the committee agreed on the election of a member of one of the smaller parties as Chairman.*

hospital block /'hɒspɪt(ə)l blɒk/ *noun* the section of a prison which contains the hospital

hospital order /ˌhɒspɪt(ə)l 'ɔːdə/ *noun* a court order putting an insane offender in hospital instead of in prison

hostage /'hɒstɪdʒ/ *noun* a person captured by an enemy or by criminals and kept until a ransom is paid ○ *She was taken hostage by the guerillas.* ○ *The bandits took away the bank manager and kept him hostage.* ○ *The terrorists released three hostages.*

hostage taker /ˌhɒstɪdʒ 'teɪkə/ *noun* somebody who takes someone hostage ○ *Two of the hostage takers were killed in a shootout with the security forces.*

hostile /'hɒstaɪl/ *adjective* not friendly

hostile witness /ˌhɒstaɪl 'wɪtnəs/ *noun* a witness called by a party, whose evidence goes unexpectedly against that party, and who can then be cross-examined by his own side as if he were giving evidence for the other side ○ *She was ruled a hostile witness by the judge.*

hot /hɒt/ *adjective* stolen or illegal (*informal*) ○ *hot jewels* ○ *a hot car*

hotchpot /'hɒtʃpɒt/ *noun* the act of bringing together into one fund money to be distributed under a will

hotchpot rule /'hɒtʃpɒt ruːl/ *noun* the rule that money passed to one child during his or her lifetime by a deceased person should be counted as part of the total estate to be distributed to all the children in the case where the person died intestate

hot money /ˌhɒt 'mʌni/ *noun* **1.** money which is moved from country to country to get the best interest rates **2.** stolen money, or money which has been obtained illegally

hot pursuit /ˌhɒt pə'sjuːt/ *noun* the right in international law to chase a ship into international waters, or to chase suspected criminals across an international border into another country

house /haʊz/ *noun* one of the two parts of the British Parliament (the House of Commons and the House of Lords) ○ *The*

minister brought a matter to the attention of the House.

house arrest /'haʊs əˌrest/ *noun* the situation of being ordered by a court to stay in your house and not to leave it ○ *The opposition leader has been under house arrest for six years.*

housebreaker /'haʊsbreɪkə/ *noun US* a burglar, a person who breaks into houses and steals things

housebreaking /'haʊsbreɪkɪŋ/ *noun US* burglary, entering a house and stealing things

household effects /ˌhaʊshəʊld ɪ'fekts/ *plural noun* furniture and other items used in a house, and moved with the owner when he or she moves house

householder /'haʊshəʊldə/ *noun* somebody who occupies a private house

House of Commons /ˌhaʊs əv 'kɒmənz/ *noun* **1.** the lower house of the British Parliament, made up of 659 elected members **2.** the lower house of a legislature (as in Canada)

COMMENT: Members of the House of Commons (called MPs) are elected for five years, which is the maximum length of a Parliament. Bills can be presented in either the House of Commons or House of Lords, and sent to the other chamber for discussion and amendment. All bills relating to revenue must be introduced in the House of Commons, and most other bills are introduced there also.

House of Lords /ˌhaʊs əv 'lɔːdz/ *noun* the non-elected upper house of Parliament in the United Kingdom, made up of life peers, some hereditary peers and some bishops

COMMENT: The composition of the House of Lords was changed by the House of Lords act 1999; hereditary peers no longer sit there by right, although 92 remain, elected by their own party or crossbench (non-party) groups, or as Deputy Speakers, Committee Chairs, or to fill two hereditary royal appointments, the Earl Marshal and the Lord Great Chamberlain. As a court, the decisions of the House of Lords are binding on all other courts, and the only appeal from the House of Lords is to the European Court of Justice.

House of Representatives /ˌhaʊs əv reprɪ'zentətɪvz/ *noun* **1.** *US* the lower house of the Congress of the United States, made up of 435 elected members **2.** the lower house of a legislature (as in Australia)

COMMENT: The members of the House of Representatives (called Congressmen) are elected for two years. All bills relating to revenue must originate in the House of Representatives; otherwise bills can be proposed in either the House or the Senate and sent to the other chamber for discussion and amendment.

house property /'haʊs ˌprɒpəti/ *noun* private houses, not shops, offices or factories

human error /ˌhjuːmən 'erə/ *noun* a mistake made by a person, not by a machine

human rights /ˌhjuːmən 'raɪts/ *plural noun* the rights of individual men and women to basic freedoms such as freedom of association, freedom of speech

COMMENT: The Human Rights Act 1998, in force since October 2000, incorporated into UK law the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The Convention rights may now be relied on by litigants in the UK without the need to take a case to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

human rights act /ˌhjuːmən 'raɪts ˌækt/ *noun* legislation introduced into domestic law for the whole of the UK in October 2000, in order to comply with the obligations set out in European Convention of Human Rights. The Act creates a statutory duty that all laws, past or present, must be interpreted in a way that is compatible to the Convention.

humble address /ˌhʌmbəl ə'dres/ *noun* a formal communication from one or both Houses of Parliament to the Queen

hung /hʌŋ/ *adjective* with no majority

hunger strike /'hʌŋgə straɪk/ *noun* a protest, often by a prisoner, where the person refuses to eat until his or her demands have been met ○ *He went on hunger strike until the prison authorities allowed him to receive mail.*

hung jury /ˌhʌŋ 'dʒʊəri/ *noun* a jury which cannot arrive at a unanimous or majority verdict

hung parliament /ˌhʌŋ 'pɑːləmənt/ *noun* a parliament where no single party has enough votes to form a government

hurdle /'hɜːd(ə)l/ *noun* something which prevents something happening ○ *The defendant will have to overcome two hurdles if his appeal is to be successful.*

hush money /'hʌʃ ˌmʌni/ *noun* money paid to someone to stop him or her talking (*informal*)

hustings /'hʌstɪŋz/ *noun* □ **at the hustings** at a parliamentary election

COMMENT: The hustings were formerly the booths where votes were taken, or the platform on which candidates stood to speak, but now the word is used simply to mean 'an election'.

Hybrid Bill /'haɪbrɪd bɪl/ *noun* a term used to refer to a Public Bill which affects the private interests of a particular person or organisation

hybrid offence /ˌhaɪbrɪd ə'fens/ *noun* an offence which can be tried either by magistrates or by a judge and jury

hypothecation /haɪˌpɒθə'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the use of property such as securities as collateral for a loan, without transferring legal ownership to the lender, as opposed to a mortgage, where the lender holds the title to the property **2.** the action of earmarking money derived from specific sources for related expenditure, e.g. investing the taxes from private cars or petrol sales solely in public transport

hypothetical question /ˌhaɪpə θetɪk(ə)l 'kwestʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a question about a possible rather than an actual situation which is posed for discussion during a decision-making process

I

ibid /'ɪbɪd/**, ibidem** *adverb* just the same, or in the same place in a book

ICC *abbreviation* International Criminal Court

id /ɪd/**, idem** *pronoun* the same thing, or the same person

ID *abbreviation* identity

identification /aɪˌdentɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of identifying someone or something

identification parade /aɪˌdentɪfɪ 'keɪʃ(ə)n pəˌreɪd/ *noun* an arrangement where a group of people including a suspect stand in a line at a police station so that a witness can point out the person whom he or she recognises

identify /aɪ'dentɪˌfaɪ/ *verb* to say who someone is or what something is ○ *She was able to identify her attacker.* ○ *Passengers were asked to identify their suitcases.* ○ *The dead man was identified by his fingerprints.*

Identikit /aɪ'dentɪkɪt/ *noun* a trademark for a method of making a picture of a criminal from descriptions given by witnesses, using pieces of photographs and drawings of different types of faces ○ *The police issued an identikit picture of the mugger.* (NOTE: Now replaced by **Photofit pictures**.)

identity /aɪ'dentɪti/ *noun* who someone is □ **he changed his identity** he assumed a different name, changed his appearance, etc., (usually done to avoid being recognised) □ **he was asked for proof of identity** he was asked to prove he really was the person he said he was □ **case of mistaken identity** situation where a person is wrongly thought to be someone else

identity of parties /aɪˌdentɪti əv 'pɑːtiz/ *noun* a situation where the parties in different actions are the same

identity parade /aɪ'dentɪti pəˌreɪd/ *noun* same as **identification parade**

identity theft /aɪ'dentɪti θeft/ *noun* the theft of personal data such as the details of someone's credit card

ignorance /'ɪgnərəns/ *noun* lack of knowledge □ **ignorance of the law is no excuse** the fact that someone does not know that he or she has committed an offence does not make the offence any the less

ignorantia legis non excusat, ignorantia legis neminem excusat, ignorantia legis haud excusat *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'ignorance of the law is not an excuse for anyone'

ILEX *abbreviation* institute of legal executives

illegal /ɪ'liːg(ə)l/ *adjective* not legal in criminal law ○ *the illegal carrying of arms* ○ *Illegal immigrants are deported.*

illegal contract /ɪˌliːg(ə)l 'kɒntrækt/ *noun* a contract which cannot be enforced in law, e.g. a contract to commit a crime

illegal immigrant /ɪˌliːg(ə)l 'ɪmɪgrənt/ *noun* somebody who enters a country to live permanently without having the permission of the government to do so

illegality /ˌɪliː'gælɪti/ *noun* the fact of being illegal

illegitimacy /ˌɪlɪ'dʒɪtɪməsi/ *noun* the state of being illegitimate

illegitimate /ˌɪlɪ'dʒɪtɪmət/ *adjective* **1.** against the law **2.** born to parents who are not married to each other

COMMENT: Children who are illegitimate can nevertheless inherit from their parents.

illicit /ɪ'lɪsɪt/ *adjective* not allowed by the law or by other rules ○ *illicit sale of alcohol* ○ *trade in illicit alcohol*

ILO *abbreviation* International Labour Organization

IMF *abbreviation* International Monetary Fund

imitation /ˌɪmɪ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* something which copies another □ **beware of imitations** be careful not to buy low quality goods which are made to look like other more expensive items

immaterial /ˌɪmə'tɪəriəl/ *adjective* not relevant or important □ **immaterial evidence** evidence that is not relevant to a particular case

immemorial /ˌɪmə'mɔːriəl/ *adjective* so old it cannot be remembered □ **from time immemorial** for so long that no one can remember when it started ○ *Villagers said that there had been a footpath across the field from time immemorial.*

immemorial existence /ˌɪməmɔːriəl ɪg'zɪstəns/ *noun* the period before 1189, the date from which events are supposed to be remembered. ◊ **legal memory**

immigrant /'ɪmɪgrənt/ *noun* somebody who moves to this country to live permanently

immigrate /'ɪmɪgreɪt/ *verb* to move to this country to live permanently. Compare **emigrate**

immigration /ˌɪmɪ'greɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an act of moving into a country to live permanently

Immigration Laws /ˌɪmɪ'greɪʃ(ə)n lɔːz/ *plural noun* legislation regarding immigration into a country

immigration officer /ˌɪmɪ'greɪʃ(ə)n ˌɒfɪsə/ *noun* an official at an airport or port, whose job is to check the passports and visas of people entering the country

immoral earnings /ɪˌmɒrəl 'ɜːnɪŋz/ *plural noun* money earned from prostitution

immovable /ɪ'muːvəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being unable to be moved

immovable property /ɪˌmuːvəb(ə)l 'prɒpəti/ *noun* houses and other buildings on land, as well as land itself

immunity /ɪ'mjuːnɪti/ *noun* protection from arrest or prosecution □ **when he offered to give information to the police, he was granted immunity from prosecution** he was told he would not be prosecuted

COMMENT: Immunity from prosecution is also granted to magistrates, counsel and witnesses as regards their statements in judicial proceedings. Families and servants of diplomats may be covered by diplomatic immunity. In the USA, immunity is the protection of members of Congress against being sued for libel or slander for statements made on the floor of the House (in the UK this is called **privilege**).

impanel *verb US* same as **empanel**

impartial /ɪm'pɑːʃ(ə)l/ *adjective* not biased or prejudiced ○ *to give someone a fair and impartial hearing* ○ *A judgment must be impartial.*

impartiality /ɪmˌpɑːʃi'ælɪti/ *noun* the state of being impartial ○ *The newspapers doubted the impartiality of the judge.*

impartially /ɪm'pɑːʃ(ə)li/ *adverb* not showing any bias or favour towards someone ○ *The adjudicator has to decide impartially between the two parties.*

impeach /ɪm'piːtʃ/ *verb* **1.** formerly, to charge a person with treason before Parliament **2.** *US* to charge a head of state with treason **3.** *US* to charge any government official with misconduct **4.** *US* to discredit a witness

impeachment /ɪm'piːtʃmənt/ *noun* **1.** *US* a charge of treason brought against a head of state **2.** in the USA, a charge of misconduct against any public official

impersonate /ɪm'pɜːsəneɪt/ *verb* to pretend to be someone else ○ *He gained entrance to the house by impersonating a local authority inspector.*

impersonation /ɪmˌpɜːsə'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the activity of pretending to be someone else in order to deceive people ○ *He was charged with impersonation of a police officer.*

impleader /ɪm'pliːdə/ *noun US* a procedure to join a third party to an original action, undertaken either by the plaintiff

or the defendant (NOTE: The British equivalent is **third party proceedings**.)

implication /ˌɪmplɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the possible effect of an action ○ *What will the implications of this decision be?* **2.** an involvement with a crime or something that is morally wrong ○ *The newspaper revealed his implication in the affair of the stolen diamonds.* **3.** a suggestion that something such as a criticism or accusation is true although it has not been expressed directly ○ *I resent the implication that I knew anything about the report in advance.*

implicit /ɪm'plɪsɪt/ *adjective* implied rather than clearly stated

implied /ɪm'plaɪd/ *adjective* being presumed to exist or which can be established by circumstantial evidence

implied contract /ɪmˌplaɪd kən 'trækt/ *noun* an agreement which is considered to be a contract, because the parties intended it to be a contract or because the law considers it to be a contract

implied malice /ɪmˌplaɪd 'mælɪs/ *noun* the intention to commit grievous bodily harm on someone

implied term /ɪm'plaɪd tɜːm/ *noun* a term in a contract which is not clearly set out in the contract. Compare **express term**

implied terms and conditions /ɪm ˌplaɪd tɜːmz ən kən'dɪʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* terms and conditions which are not written in a contract, but which are legally taken to be present in the contract

implied trust /ɪmˌplaɪd 'trʌst/ *noun* a trust which is implied by the intentions and actions of the parties

imply /ɪm'plaɪ/ *verb* to suggest that something may be true without stating it clearly ○ *Counsel implied that the witness had not in fact seen the accident take place.* ○ *Do you wish to imply that the police acted improperly?*

import licence /'ɪmpɔːt ˌlaɪs(ə)ns/ *noun* a permit which allows a company to bring a particular type of product into a country

import permit /'ɪmpɔːt ˌpɜːmɪt/ *noun* an official document which allows goods to be imported

import quota /'ɪmpɔːt ˌkwəʊtə/ *noun* a fixed quantity of a particular type of goods which the government allows to be imported ○ *The government has imposed a quota on the import of cars.* ○ *The quota on imported cars has been lifted.*

import surcharge /'ɪmpɔːt ˌsɜːtʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* an extra charge on imported goods

import trade /'ɪmpɔːt treɪd/ *noun* the business of buying from other countries

importune /ˌɪmpə'tjuːn/ *verb* (*of prostitutes looking for clients, or of men looking for prostitutes*) to ask someone to have sexual relations

importuning /ˌɪmpə'tjuːnɪŋ/ *noun* the crime of asking someone to have sexual relations with you, usually for money

impose /ɪm'pəʊz/ *verb* **1.** to ask someone to pay a fine ○ *to impose a tax on bicycles* ○ *The court imposed a fine of £100.* ○ *They tried to impose a ban on smoking.* **2.** to put a tax or a duty on goods ○ *The government imposed a special duty on oil.* ○ *The customs have imposed a 10% tax increase on electrical items.*

imposition /ˌɪmpə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the introduction of something such as a rule or tax

impossibility of performance /ɪm ˌpɒsəbɪlɪti əv pə'fɔːməns/ *noun* a situation where a party to a contract is unable to perform his or her part of the contract

impound /ɪm'paʊnd/ *verb* to take something away and keep it until a tax is paid or until documents are checked to see if they are correct ○ *The customs impounded the whole cargo.*

impounding /ɪm'paʊndɪŋ/ *noun* the act of taking something and keeping it

imprison /ɪm'prɪz(ə)n/ *verb* to put someone in prison ○ *He was imprisoned by the secret police for six months.*

imprisonment /ɪm'prɪz(ə)nmənt/ *noun* the punishment of being put in prison ○ *The penalty for the first offence is a fine of £200 or six weeks' imprisonment.* □ **a term of imprisonment** time which a prisoner has to spend in prison ○

He was sentenced to the maximum term of imprisonment.

COMMENT: Life imprisonment is a term of many years, but in the UK not necessarily for the rest of the prisoner's life.

improper /ɪm'prɒpə/ *adjective* not correct, not as it should be

improperly /ɪm'prɒpəli/ *adverb* not correctly ○ *The police constable's report was improperly made out.* ○ *She was accused of acting improperly in going to see the prisoner's father.*

impunity /ɪm'pjuːnɪti/ *noun* □ **with impunity** without punishment ○ *No one can flout the law with impunity.*

imputation /ˌɪmpjuː'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a suggestion that someone has done something wrong

imputation of malice /ˌɪmpjuːteɪʃ(ə)n əv 'mælɪs/ *noun* the suggestion that someone acted out of malice

impute /ɪm'pjuːt/ *verb* to suggest □ **to impute a motive to someone** to suggest that someone had a motive in acting as he did

in absentia /ɪn æb'senʃə/ *adverb* in someone's absence ○ *She was tried and sentenced to death in absentia.*

inadmissible /ˌɪnəd'mɪsɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* not able to be used in court as evidence

inalienable /ɪn'eɪliənəb(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to a right which cannot be taken away from a person or transferred to someone else

inapplicable /ˌɪnə'plɪkəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being unable to be applied ○ *The government argued that the national legislation had not been applied and was inapplicable in this case.*

Inc *abbreviation* incorporated

in camera /ɪn 'kæm(ə)rə/ *adverb* with no members of the public permitted to be present ○ *The case was heard in camera.* (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has been replaced by **in private**.)

incapable /ɪn'keɪpəb(ə)l/ *adjective* not able ○ *He was incapable of fulfilling the terms of the contract.* ○ *A child is considered legally incapable of committing a crime.*

incapacity /ˌɪnkə'pæsɪti/ *noun* the state of not being legally able to do something ○ *The court had to act because of the incapacity of the trustees.*

incarcerate /ɪn'kɑːsəreɪt/ *verb* to put in prison ○ *He was incarcerated in a stone tower.*

incarceration /ɪnˌkɑːsə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an act of putting a criminal in prison

inception /ɪn'sepʃən/ *noun* a beginning ○ *Some people believe that subsidiarity has existed in the Community ever since its inception.*

incest /'ɪnsest/ *noun* a notifiable offence of having sexual intercourse with a close relative such as a daughter, son, mother or father

in chambers /ɪn 'tʃeɪmbəz/ *adverb* in the office of a judge and not in a courtroom ○ *The judge heard the application in chambers.*

inchoate /ɪn'kəʊət/ *adjective* just beginning to form but not complete

inchoate instrument /ɪnˌkəʊət 'ɪnstrʊmənt/ *noun* a document which is not complete

inchoate offences /ɪnˌkəʊət ə 'fensɪz/ *plural noun* offences such as incitement, attempt or conspiracy to commit a crime even though the crime itself may not have been committed

incidence /'ɪnsɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* how often something happens ○ *The incidence of cases of rape has increased over the last years.* ○ *A high incidence of accidents relating to drunken drivers.*

incident /'ɪnsɪd(ə)nt/ *noun* something which happens at a particular time, e.g. a crime, accident or violent event ○ *Three incidents were reported when police vehicles were attacked by a crowd.* ■ *adjective* □ **incident to something** depending on something else

incidental /ˌɪnsɪ'dent(ə)l/ *adjective* not important

incidental expenses /ˌɪnsɪdent(ə)l ɪk'spensɪz/ *plural noun* small amounts of money spent on different things at various times in connection with an activity

○ *an allowance for travel, meals and incidental expenses*

incident room /'ɪnsɪd(ə)nt ruːm/ *noun* a special room in a police station to deal with a particular crime or accident

incident tape /'ɪnsɪd(ə)nt teɪp/ *noun* wide yellow and black tape that is used to isolate an area and keep people away from a crime scene (NOTE: The US term is crime scene tape.)

incite /ɪn'saɪt/ *verb* to encourage, persuade or advise someone to commit a crime

incitement /ɪn'saɪtmənt/ *noun* the crime of encouraging, persuading or advising someone to commit a crime

COMMENT: It is not necessary for a crime to have been committed for incitement to be proved.

incitement to racial hatred /ɪn ˌsaɪtmənt tə ˌreɪʃ(ə)l 'heɪtrɪd/ *noun* the offence of encouraging people by words, actions or writing to attack others because of their race

inciter /ɪn'saɪtə/ *noun* somebody who incites someone to commit a crime

income /'ɪnkʌm/ *noun* money that a person receives as salary, dividend or interest □ **income from rents** money received from allowing other people to use property such as offices, houses or land that you own

income bracket /'ɪnkʌm ˌbrækɪt/ *noun* a range between two amounts of income, to which a specific tax percentage applies ○ *People in the lowest income bracket pay the lowest rate of tax.*

income support /'ɪnkʌm səˌpɔːt/ *noun* financial help given by the state to families with low incomes. An individual must not work more than sixteen hours a week in order to qualify.

income tax /'ɪnkʌm tæks/ *noun* a tax on salaries and wages, calculated at different rates according to how much you earn

incompetency /ɪn'kɒmpɪt(ə)nsi/ *noun* the state of not being legally competent to do something

incompetent /ɪn'kɒmpɪt(ə)nt/ *adjective* **1.** unable to carry out duties to the required standard ○ *The sales manager is quite incompetent.* ○ *The company has an incompetent sales director.* **2.** not legally able to do something ○ *He is incompetent to sign the contract.*

incorporate /ɪn'kɔːpəˌreɪt/ *verb* **1.** to bring something in to be part of something else, e.g. to make a document part of another document ○ *Income from the 1998 acquisition is incorporated into the accounts.* ○ *The list of markets is incorporated into the main contract.* **2.** to form a registered company ○ *a company incorporated in the USA* ○ *an incorporated company* ○ *J. Doe Incorporated*

incorporation /ɪnˌkɔːpə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of incorporating a company

incorporeal /ˌɪnkɔː'pɔːriəl/ *adjective* not having physical form, so being unable to be touched

incorporeal chattels /ˌɪnkɔːpɔːriəl 'tʃæt(ə)lz/ *plural noun* items such as patents and copyrights which have intellectual rather than physical existence

incorporeal hereditaments /ˌɪnkɔːpɔːriəl ˌherɪ'dɪtəmənts/ *plural noun* rights such as patents or copyrights which can form part of an estate and be inherited

incorrigible /ɪn'kɒrɪdʒɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* having bad behaviour and unwilling to change it

incriminate /ɪn'krɪmɪneɪt/ *verb* to show that a person has committed a criminal act ○ *He was incriminated by the recorded message he sent to the victim.*

incriminating /ɪn'krɪmɪneɪtɪŋ/ *adjective* which shows that someone has committed a crime ○ *Incriminating evidence was found in his car.*

incumbent /ɪn'kʌmbənt/ *adjective* □ **it is incumbent upon him** he has to do this, because it is his duty ○ *It is incumbent on us to check our facts before making an accusation.* ○ *It is incumbent upon justices to give some warning of their doubts about a case.* ■ *noun* somebody who holds an official position ○ *There will be no changes in the governor's staff while the present incumbent is still in office.*

incumbrance /ɪn'kʌmbrəns/ *noun* same as **encumbrance**

incur /ɪn'kɜː/ *verb* to make yourself liable to □ **to incur the risk of a penalty** to make it possible that you risk paying a penalty □ **to incur debts, costs** to do something which means that you owe money, that you will have to pay costs □ **the company has incurred heavy costs to implement the development programme** the company has had to pay large sums of money

incuriam ◗ **per incuriam**

indebted /ɪn'detɪd/ *adjective* owing money to someone ○ *to be indebted to a property company*

indebtedness /ɪn'detɪdnəs/ *noun* the amount of money owed by someone

indecency /ɪn'diːs(ə)nsi/ *noun* the state of being offensive and shocking to most people □ **to commit an act of gross indecency** (*of a man*) to have unlawful sexual contact with another man or with a child

indecent /ɪn'diːs(ə)nt/ *adjective* **1.** offensive and shocking to most people, especially in relation to sexual matters **2.** not polite and considerate □ **indecent haste** unsuitably fast action ○ *They accepted the suggestion of compensation with indecent haste.*

indecent assault /ɪnˌdiːsənt ə'sɔːlt/ *noun* the crime of assaulting a person together with an indecent act or proposal

indecent exposure /ɪnˌdiːs(ə)nt ɪk 'spəʊʒə/ *noun* an offence where a male person shows his sexual organs in a public place

indefeasible right /ˌɪndɪfiːzɪb(ə)l 'raɪt/ *noun* a right which cannot be made void

indemnification /ɪndemnɪfɪ'keɪʃən/ *noun* payment for damage

indemnify /ɪn'demnɪfaɪ/ *verb* to pay for damage suffered ○ *to indemnify someone for a loss*

indemnity /ɪn'demnɪti/ *noun* **1.** compensation for a loss or a wrong **2.** a statement of liability to pay compensation for a loss or for a wrong in a transaction to which you are a party ○ *She had to pay an indemnity of £100.* Compare **guarantee**. ◗ **letter of indemnity** (NOTE: The person making an indemnity is primarily liable and can be sued by the person with whom he makes the transaction.) **3.** (*in civil cases*) the right of someone to recover from a third party the amount which is liable to be paid

indenture /ɪn'dentʃə/ *noun* a deed made between two or more parties ■ *verb* to contract with a trainee who will work for some years to learn a trade ○ *He was indentured to a builder.*

indentures /ɪn'dentʃəz/ *noun* a contract by which a trainee craftsman works for a master for some years to learn a trade

independence /ˌɪndɪ'pendəns/ *noun* freedom from the rule, control or influence of others ○ *The colony struggled to achieve independence.* ○ *Britain granted her colonies independence in the years after the Second World War.* ○ *An independence movement grew in the colony.*

independent /ˌɪndɪ'pendənt/ *adjective* not controlled by anyone else

independent rights /ˌɪndɪ'pendənt raɪts/ *plural noun* rights of employed people, students, retired people and people with private incomes, to enter, live and work in a EU country

indict /ɪn'daɪt/ *verb* to charge someone with a crime ○ *She was indicted for murder.*

indictable offence /ɪnˌdaɪtəb(ə)l ə 'fens/ *noun* formerly, a serious offence which could be tried in the Crown Court (NOTE: Now called **notifiable offence**.)

indictment /ɪn'daɪtmənt/ *noun* a written statement of the details of the crime with which someone is charged in the Crown Court ○ *The clerk to the justices read out the indictment.*

indirect discrimination /ˌɪndaɪrekt ˌsekjʊəl dɪsˌkrɪmɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* discrimination caused by the application of an abstract principle, where the result is that people of different sexes are treated differently

indirect sexual discrimination /ˌɪndaɪrekt ˌsekjʊəl dɪsˌkrɪmɪ 'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an instance of sexual discrimination that is covert, where employment conditions are such that it would be difficult for one sex to fulfil them An example would be where promotion is based on continuous employ-

ment, meaning that a woman taking maternity leave be less likely to get promoted than a man where all else is equal. ◊ **direct sexual discrimination**

individual exemption /ˌɪndɪvɪdʒuəl ɪgˈzempʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an exemption granted to a person or small business, exempting them from specific obligations

individual retirement account /ˌɪndɪvɪdʒuəl rɪˈtaɪəmənt əˌkaʊnt/ *noun US* a privately managed pension plan, to which individuals can make contributions which are separate from a company pension plan. Abbreviation **IRA** (NOTE: The British equivalent is a **personal pension plan**.)

indorse /ɪnˈdɔːs/ *verb* to write something on the back of a document, especially to note details of a claimant's claim on a writ ○ *The writ was indorsed with details of the claimant's claim.* □ **he indorsed the cheque over to his solicitor** he signed the cheque on the back so as to make it payable to his solicitor

indorsement /ɪnˈdɔːsmənt/ *noun* the act of writing notes on a document, especially writing the details of a claimant's claim on a writ

induce /ɪnˈdjuːs/ *verb* to help persuade someone to do something ○ *He was induced to steal the plans by an offer of a large amount of money.*

inducement /ɪnˈdjuːsmənt/ *noun* something which helps to persuade someone to do something ○ *They offered him a company car as an inducement to stay.*

inducement to break contract /ɪnˌdjuːsmənt tə breɪk ˈkɒntrækt/ *noun* the tort of persuading someone to break a contract he or she has entered into

industrial /ɪnˈdʌstriəl/ *adjective* relating to work

industrial accident /ɪnˌdʌstriəl ˈæksɪd(ə)nt/ *noun* an accident which takes place at work

industrial arbitration tribunal /ɪnˌdʌstriəl ˌɑːbɪˈtreɪʃ(ə)n traɪˌbjuːn(ə)l/ *noun* a court which decides in industrial disputes ○ *to accept the ruling of the arbitration board*

industrial development /ɪnˌdʌstriəl dɪˈveləpmənt/ *noun* the planning and building of new industries in special areas

industrial disputes /ɪnˌdʌstriəl dɪˈspjuːt/ *plural noun* arguments between management and workers

industrial espionage /ɪnˌdʌstriəl ˈespiənɑːʒ/ *noun* the activity of trying to find out the secrets of a competitor's work or products, usually by illegal means

industrial estate /ɪnˈdʌstriəl ɪˌsteɪt/ *noun* an area of land near a town specially for factories and warehouses

industrial injuries /ɪnˌdʌstriəl ˈɪndʒəriz/ *plural noun* injuries caused to employees at work

industrial property /ɪnˌdʌstriəl ˈprɒpəti/ *noun* an item with intellectual rather than physical existence such as a patent, trademark or company name which is owned by a company

industrial relations /ɪnˌdʌstriəl rɪˈleɪʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* relations between management and workers

industrial tribunal /ɪnˌdʌstriəl traɪˈbjuːn(ə)l/ *noun* same as **employment tribunal**

in esse /ˌɪn ˈeseɪ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'in being'

infant /ˈɪnfənt/ *noun* a person aged less than eighteen years. Under this age a person cannot make legal decisions for themselves. (NOTE: This is an old term, now replaced by **minor**.)

infanticide /ɪnˈfæntɪsaɪd/ *noun* the notifiable offence of killing a child, especially the killing of a child by its mother before it is 12 months old

infer /ɪnˈfɜː/ *verb* to reach an opinion about something ○ *He inferred from the letter that the accused knew the murder victim.* ○ *Counsel inferred that the witness had not been present at the time of the accident.*

inferior court /ɪnˈfɪəriə kɔːt/ *noun* a lower court such as a magistrates' court or County Court

in flagrante delicto /ɪn fləˌgrænti dɪˈlɪktəʊ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning '(caught) in the act of committing a crime'

influence peddling /'ɪnfluəns ˌpedlɪŋ/ *noun* the act of offering to use personal influence, especially political power, for payment in order to help a person or group achieve something

inform /ɪn'fɔːm/ *verb* **1.** to tell someone officially ○ *I regret to inform you that your tender was not acceptable.* ○ *We are pleased to inform you that your offer has been accepted.* ○ *We have been informed by the Department of Trade that new tariffs are coming into force.* **2.** □ **to inform on someone** to tell the police that someone has committed a crime

informant /ɪn'fɔːmənt/ *noun* a person who gives information to someone secretly ○ *Is your informant reliable?*

in forma pauperis /ˌɪn ˌfɔːmə 'pɔːpərɪs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'as a poor person'

COMMENT: A term formerly used to allow a person who could prove that he had little money to bring an action even if he could not pay the costs of the case; now replaced by Legal Aid.

information /ˌɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the details which explain something ○ *to disclose a piece of information* ○ *to answer a request for information* ○ *Have you any information on* or *about deposit accounts?* ○ *I enclose this leaflet for your information.* ○ *For further information, please write to Department 27.* □ **disclosure of confidential information** telling someone information which should be secret **2.** the details of a crime drawn up by the clerk and given to a magistrate □ **laying (an) information** starting criminal proceedings in a magistrates' court by informing the magistrate of the offence

information bureau /ˌɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n ˌbjʊərəʊ/ *noun* an office where someone can answer questions from members of the public

information officer /ˌɪnfə'meɪʃ(ə)n ˌɒfɪsə/ *noun* **1.** a person whose job is to give information about a company, an organisation or a government department to the public **2.** a person whose job is to give information to other departments in the same organization

informed /ɪn'fɔːmd/ *adjective* having the latest information ○ *Informed opinion thinks that she will lose the appeal.*

informed consent /ɪnˌfɔːmd kən 'sent/ *noun* an agreement that an operation can be carried out which is given by a patient or the guardians of a patient after they have been given all the information they need to make the decision

informer /ɪn'fɔːmə/ *noun* somebody who gives information to the police about a crime or about criminals

infringe /ɪn'frɪndʒ/ *verb* to break a law or a right □ **to infringe a copyright** to copy a copyright text illegally □ **to infringe a patent** to make a product which works in the same way as a patented product and not pay a royalty to the patent holder

infringement /ɪn'frɪndʒmənt/ *noun* an act of breaking a law or a right

infringement of copyright /ɪn ˌfrɪndʒmənt əv 'kɒpɪraɪt/ *noun* the act of illegally copying a work without proper permission or the consent of the copyright owner

infringement of patent /ɪn ˌfrɪndʒmənt əv 'peɪtənt/ *noun* the act of illegally using, making or selling an invention which is patented without the permission of the patent holder

infringer /ɪn'frɪndʒə/ *noun* a person who infringes a right such as a copyright ○ *a copyright infringer*

infringing goods /ɪnˌfrɪndʒɪŋ 'gʊdz/ *plural noun* goods which are made in infringement of a copyright or patent

inherit /ɪn'herɪt/ *verb* to acquire something from a person who has died ○ *When her father died she inherited the shop.* ○ *He inherited £10,000 from his grandfather.*

inheritance /ɪn'herɪt(ə)ns/ *noun* property which is received by someone from a person who has died

inheritor /ɪn'herɪtə/ *noun* somebody who receives something from somebody who has died

iniquity /ɪn'ɪkwɪti/ *noun* doing wrong

initial /ɪ'nɪʃ(ə)l/ *adjective* happening at the beginning of something ■ *verb* to write your initials on a document to show

you have read it and approved ○ *to initial an amendment to a contract* ○ *Please initial the agreement at the place marked with an X.*

initial capital /ɪˌnɪʃ(ə)l 'kæpɪt(ə)l/ *noun* capital which is used to start a business ○ *He started the business with an initial expenditure* or *initial investment of £500.*

initials /ɪ'nɪʃ(ə)lz/ *plural noun* first letters of the words in a name ○ *What do the initials QC stand for?* ○ *The chairman wrote his initials by each alteration in the contract he was signing.*

initio ◆ **ab initio**

injunction /ɪn'dʒʌŋkʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a court order telling someone to stop doing something, or not to do something ○ *He got an injunction preventing the company from selling his car.* ○ *The company applied for an injunction to stop their competitor from marketing a similar product.* □ **interlocutory injunction**, **temporary injunction** injunction which is granted until a case comes to court

injure /'ɪndʒə/ *verb* to hurt someone ○ *Two employees were injured in the fire.*

injured party /ˌɪndʒəd 'pɑːti/ *noun* a party in a court case which has been harmed by another party

injurious /ɪn'dʒʊəriəs/ *adjective* being capable of causing injury

injurious falsehood /ɪnˌdʒʊəriəs 'fɔːlshʊd/ *noun* a tort of making a wrong statement about someone so as to harm their reputation, usually in relation to their business or property

injury /'ɪndʒəri/ *noun* **1.** violation of a person's rights **2.** hurt caused to a person

injury benefit /'ɪndʒəri ˌbenɪfɪt/ *noun* money paid to an employee who has been hurt at work

injustice /ɪn'dʒʌstɪs/ *noun* the lack of justice

inland freight charges /ˌɪnlənd 'freɪt ˌtʃɑːdʒɪz/ *plural noun* charges for carrying goods from one part of the country to another

Inland Revenue /ˌɪnlənd 'revənjuː/ *noun* the British government department dealing with income tax

in loco parentis /ˌɪn ˌləʊkəʊ pə 'rentɪs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'in the place of a parent' ○ *The court is acting in loco parentis.*

Inner Temple /ˌɪnə 'temp(ə)l/ ◆ **Inns of Court**

innocence /'ɪnəs(ə)ns/ *noun* the state of being innocent ○ *He tried to establish his innocence.*

innocent /'ɪnəs(ə)nt/ *adjective* not guilty of a crime ○ *The accused was found to be innocent.* ○ *In English law, the accused is presumed to be innocent until he is proved to be guilty.*

Inns of Court /ˌɪnz əv 'kɔːt/ *plural noun* four societies in London, of which the members are lawyers and are called to the bar as barristers

innuendo /ˌɪnju'endəʊ/ *noun* spoken words which are defamatory because they have a double meaning ○ *An apparently innocent statement may be defamatory if it contains an innuendo.*

in personam /ɪn pɜː'səʊnæm/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'against a person' □ **action in personam** court case in which one party claims that the other should do some act or should pay damages. ◊ **in rem**

in private /ɪn 'praɪvət/ *adverb* **1.** with no members of the public permitted to be present ○ *The case was heard in private.* (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has replaced **in camera** or **in chambers**.) **2.** away from other people (*general meaning*) ○ *He asked to see the managing director in private.*

input tax /'ɪnpʊt tæks/ *noun* VAT paid on goods or services bought

inquest /'ɪŋkwest/ *noun* an inquiry by a coroner into a death

COMMENT: An inquest has to take place where death is violent or unexpected, where death could be murder or manslaughter, where a prisoner dies and when police are involved.

inquire /ɪn'kwaɪə/**, enquire** *verb* **1.** to ask questions about something ○ *The police are inquiring into his background.* **2.** to conduct an official investigation into something

inquiry /ɪn'kwaɪəri/**, enquiry** *noun* a question about something ○ *The police are making inquiries into the whereabouts of the stolen car.* □ **to help police**

with their inquiries to be taken to the police station for questioning

COMMENT: If the police want someone to help them with their inquiries and he refuses, they can arrest him and force him to go to the police station. Anyone who helps the police with their inquiries voluntarily has the right to leave the police station when he wants (unless the police arrest him).

inquisitorial procedure /ɪn ˌkwɪzɪtɔːriəl prəˈsiːdʒə/ *noun* in countries where Roman law is applied, a procedure by which an examining magistrate has the duty to investigate a case and produce the evidence. Compare **accusatorial procedure**

inquorate /ɪnˈkwɔːreɪt/ *adjective* without a quorum, i.e. without the minimum number of people present who are required to make the transaction legal ○ *The meeting was declared inquorate and had to be abandoned.*

in re /ɪn ˈreɪ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'concerning' or 'in the case of'

in rem /ɪn ˈrem/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'against a thing' □ **action in rem** court case in which one party claims property or goods in the possession of the other. ◊ **in personam**

insane /ɪnˈseɪn/ *adjective* suffering from a state of mind which makes it impossible for a person to know that they are doing wrong and so cannot be held responsible for their actions

insanity /ɪnˈsænɪti/ *noun* the state of being insane

COMMENT: Where an accused is found to be insane, a verdict of 'not guilty by reason of insanity' is returned and the accused is ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure.

inside /ɪnˈsaɪd/ *adjective* known or carried out by people who belong to a particular group or organisation □ **inside information** *or* **knowledge** special knowledge about something because of working for an organisation or being part of a particular group ■ *adjective, adverb* in prison (*slang*) ○ *He spent six months inside in 1996.*

inside job /ˈɪnˌsaɪd dʒɒb/ *noun* a crime which has been committed on a company's property by one of the employees of the company

insider /ɪnˈsaɪdə/ *noun* a person who works in an organisation and therefore knows its secrets

insider dealing /ɪnˌsaɪdə ˈdiːlɪŋ/ *noun* the illegal buying or selling of shares by staff of a company or other persons who have secret information about the company's plans

inside story /ˌɪnsaɪd ˈstɔːri/ *noun* special knowledge about how an organisation or group works ○ *John used to work for them so he can give us the inside story.*

inside worker /ˈɪnsaɪd ˌwɜːkə/ *noun* a worker who works in an office or factory and does not work outside or travel about

insolvency /ɪnˈsɒlvənsi/ *noun* the state of not being able to pay debts □ **the company was in a state of insolvency** it could not pay its debts

insolvent /ɪnˈsɒlvənt/ *adjective* not able to pay debts ○ *The company was declared insolvent.* (NOTE: **insolvent** and **insolvency** are general terms, but are usually applied to companies; individuals or partners are usually described as **bankrupt** once they have been declared so by a court.)

inspect /ɪnˈspekt/ *verb* to examine in detail ○ *to inspect a machine* or *a prison* ○ *to inspect the accounts of a company* □ **to inspect products for defects** to look at products in detail to see if they have any defects

inspection /ɪnˈspekʃən/ *noun* **1.** a close examination of something, e.g. the examination of the site of a crime by a judge and jury ○ *to make an inspection* or *to carry out an inspection of a machine* or *a new prison* ○ *inspection of a product for defects* □ **to carry out a tour of inspection** to visit various places, offices or factories to inspect them □ **to issue an inspection order** to order a defendant to allow a claimant to inspect documents, where the claimant thinks the defendant has not disclosed all relevant documents **2.** the examination of documents after disclosure ○ *Inspection was ordered to take place seven days after disclosure.*

inspection stamp /ɪnˈspekʃən stæmp/ *noun* a stamp placed on something to show it has been inspected

inspector /ɪn'spektə/ *noun* **1.** an official who inspects □ **inspector of taxes**, **tax inspector** official of the Inland Revenue who examines tax returns and decides how much tax people should pay **2.** a rank in the police force above a sergeant and below chief inspector

Inspectorate of Prisons /ɪn ˌspekt(ə)rət əv 'prɪzənz/ *noun* a section of the Prison Service which deals with the inspection of prisons to see that they are being run correctly and efficiently

inspector of factories /ɪnˌspektər əv 'fækt(ə)riz/ *noun* a government official who inspects factories to see if they are safely run

inspector of weights and measures /ɪnˌspektər əv ˌweɪts ən 'meʒəz/ *noun* a government official who inspects weighing machines and goods sold in shops to see if the quantities and weights are correct

inst *abbreviation* instant

instance /'ɪnstəns/ *noun* **1.** a particular example or case ○ *In this instance we will overlook the delay.* **2.** ◗ **court of first instance**

in statu quo /ɪn ˌstætuː 'kwəʊ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'in the present state'

institute /'ɪnstɪtjuːt/ *verb* to start something ○ *to institute proceedings against someone*

institution /ˌɪnstɪ'tjuːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** an organisation or society set up for a particular purpose □ **the Community institutions** (*in the EU*) the four bodies which legally form the European Community – the Commission, the Council, the European Parliament and the European Court of Justice **2.** building for a special purpose

institutional /ˌɪnstɪ'tjuːʃ(ə)n(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to an institution □ **institutional buying**, **selling** buying or selling shares by financial institutions

institutionalised /ˌɪnstɪ 'tjuːʃ(ə)nəlaɪzd/ *noun* **1.** unable to live independently after having been in prison, hospital or other institution for a long time **2.** happening so often that it is considered to be normal even though wrong or harmful ○ *institutionalised racism*

instruct /ɪn'strʌkt/ *verb* **1.** to give an order to someone □ **to instruct someone to do something** to tell someone officially to do something ○ *He instructed the credit controller to take action.* **2.** □ **to instruct a solicitor** to give information to a solicitor and to ask him to start legal proceedings on your behalf □ **to instruct a barrister** (*of a solicitor*) to give a barrister all the details of a case which he or she will plead in court

instructions /ɪn'strʌkʃənz/ *plural noun* **1.** order which tells what should be done or how something is to be used ○ *He gave instructions to his stockbroker to sell the shares immediately.* □ **to await instructions** to wait for someone to tell you what to do □ **to issue instructions** to tell everyone what to do □ **in accordance with**, **according to instructions** as the instructions show □ **failing instructions to the contrary** unless different instructions are given □ **forwarding instructions**, **shipping instructions** details of how goods are to be shipped and delivered **2.** the details of a case given by a client to a solicitor, or by a solicitor to a barrister

instructions to the jury /ɪn ˌstrʌkʃənz tə ðə 'dʒʊəri/ *noun US* a speech by a judge at the end of a trial where he or she reviews all the evidence and arguments and notes important points of law for the benefit of the jury (NOTE: The British term is **summing up**.)

instrument /'ɪnstrʊmənt/ *noun* **1.** a tool or piece of equipment ○ *The technical staff have instruments to measure the output of electricity.* **2.** a legal document

insulting behaviour /ɪnˌsʌltɪŋ bɪ 'heɪvjə/ *noun* the offence of shouting or making rude signs in a way which shows that you are insulting someone

insurable /ɪn'ʃʊərəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being able to be insured

insurable interest /ɪnˌʃʊərəb(ə)l 'ɪntrəst/ *noun* an interest which a person taking out an insurance policy must have in what is being insured

insurance /ɪn'ʃʊərəns/ *noun* an agreement that in return for regular small

payments, a company will pay compensation for loss, damage, injury or death □ **to take out an insurance against fire** to pay a premium, so that if a fire happens, compensation will be paid

insurance broker /ɪn'ʃʊərəns ˌbrəʊkə/ *noun* somebody who sells insurance to clients

insurance claim /ɪn'ʃʊərəns kleɪm/ *noun* a request to an insurance company to pay for damages or for loss

insurance company /ɪn'ʃʊərəns ˌkʌmp(ə)ni/ *noun* a company whose business is insurance

insurance cover /ɪn'ʃʊərəns ˌkʌvə/ *noun* protection guaranteed by an insurance policy ○ *Do you have cover against theft?*

insurance policy /ɪn'ʃʊərəns ˌpɒlɪsi/ *noun* a document which shows the conditions of an insurance contract

insurance premium /ɪn'ʃʊərəns ˌpriːmiəm/ *noun* a payment made by the insured person or a company to an insurance company

insurance rates /ɪn'ʃʊərəns reɪts/ *plural noun* amount of premium which has to be paid per £1,000 of insurance

insure /ɪn'ʃʊə/ *verb* to have a contract with a company where, if regular small payments are made, the company will pay compensation for loss, damage, injury or death ○ *to insure a house against fire* ○ *to insure baggage against loss* ○ *to insure against bad weather* ○ *to insure against loss of earnings* ○ *He was insured for £100,000.* □ **the life insured** the person whose life is covered by a life assurance □ **the sum insured** the largest amount which an insurer will pay under the terms of an insurance

insurer /ɪn'ʃʊərə/ *noun* a company which insures someone or something (NOTE: For life insurance, British English prefers to use **assurer**.)

intangible /ɪn'tændʒɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* being unable to be touched

intangible assets /ɪnˌtændʒɪb(ə)l 'æsets/ *plural noun* assets which have a value, but which have no physical presence, e.g. goodwill, a patent or a trademark

integrity /ɪn'tegrɪti/ *noun* the original state of something which has not been adapted or changed in any way ○ *The electronic signature confirms the integrity of the document.*

intellectual /ˌɪntɪ'lektʃuəl/ *adjective* belonging to the mind

intellectual property /ɪntɪˌlektjʊəl 'prɒpəti/ *noun* something such as a copyright, patent or design which someone has created or produced that no-one else can legally copy, use or sell

intellectual property rights /ɪntɪ ˌlektjʊəl 'prɒpəti ˌraɪts/ *plural noun* the rights of ownership of something such as a copyright, patent or design. Abbreviation **IPR**

intelligible /ɪn'telɪdʒɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* able to be easily understood ○ *A key is required to make an encrypted message intelligible.*

intend /ɪn'tend/ *verb* to plan to do something ○ *The company intends to sue for damages.* ○ *We intend to offer jobs to 250 unemployed young people.*

intended murder /ɪnˌtendɪd 'mɜːdə/ *noun US* murder which was planned in advance

intent /ɪn'tent/ *noun* what is planned

intention /ɪn'tenʃən/ *noun* **1.** the wish or plan to do something ○ *He was accused of perjury with the intention of incriminating his employer.* **2.** the belief that something will happen as the result of an action **3.** the meaning of the words in a document such as a will which may not be the same as what the maker of the document had actually written

COMMENT: Intention to create a legal relationship is one of the essential elements of a contract.

intentional /ɪn'tenʃən(ə)l/ *adjective* deliberate ○ *an act of intentional cruelty*

intentionally /ɪn'tenʃən(ə)li/ *adverb* deliberately ○ *She gave an intentionally misleading account of what happened.*

inter alia /ˌɪntə 'eɪliə/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'among other things'

inter-bank loan /ˌɪntə bæŋk 'ləʊn/ *noun* a loan from one bank to another

intercept /ˌɪntə'sept/ *verb* to stop something as it is passing ○ *We have in-*

tercepted a message from one of the enemy agents in London.

interception /ˌɪntə'sepʃən/ *noun* the action of intercepting a message

inter-company comparisons /ɪn ˌtɜː ˌkʌmp(ə)ni kəm'pærɪs(ə)nz/ *plural noun* comparing the results of one company with those of another in the same product area

inter-company dealings /ɪnˌtɜː ˌkʌmp(ə)ni 'diːlɪŋz/ *plural noun* dealings between two companies in the same group

interdict /'ɪntədɪkt/ *noun* (*in Scotland*) a ban, a written court order telling someone not to do something

interest /'ɪntrəst/ *noun* **1.** special attention ○ *The managing director takes no interest in the staff club.* ○ *The police showed a lot of interest in the abandoned car.* ◊ **public interest 2.** a payment made by a borrower for the use of money, calculated as a percentage of the capital borrowed **3.** money paid as income on investments or loans ○ *to receive interest at 5%* ○ *deposit which yields* or *gives* or *produces* or *bears 5% interest* ○ *account which earns interest at 10%* or *which earns 10% interest* ○ *The bank pays 10% interest on deposits.* **4.** a percentage charge to be paid for borrowing money **5.** the right or title to a property, money invested in a company or financial share in, and part control over, a company □ **he has a controlling interest in the company** he owns more than 50% of the shares and so can direct how the company is run □ **to acquire a substantial interest in the company** to buy a large number of shares in a company □ **to declare, disclose an interest** to state in public that you own shares in a company which is being investigated, or that you are connected with someone who may benefit from your contacts ■ *verb* to attract someone's attention ○ *He tried to interest several companies in his new invention.* □ **interested in** paying attention to ○ *The managing director is interested only in increasing profitability.*

interest-bearing deposits /ˌɪntrəst ˌbeərɪŋ dɪ'pɒzɪts/ *plural noun* deposits which produce interest

interest charges /'ɪntrəst ˌtʃɑːdʒɪz/ *plural noun* cost of paying interest

interested party /ˌɪntrestɪd 'pɑːti/ *noun* a person or company with a financial interest in a company

interest-free credit /ˌɪntrəst friː 'kredɪt/, **interest-free loan** /'ɪntrəst friː ləʊn/ *noun* credit or a loan where no interest is paid by the borrower

interest in remainder /ˌɪntrəst ɪn rɪ 'meɪndə/ *noun* an interest in land which will come into someone's possession when another person's interest ends

interest rate /'ɪntrəst reɪt/ *noun* a percentage charge to be paid for borrowing money

interfere /ˌɪntə'fɪə/ *verb* to get involved with something which is not your concern

interference /ˌɪntə'fɪərəns/ *noun* the process of deliberately getting involved with something that is not your concern □ **interference with vehicles** an offence where someone tries to break into a vehicle with the intention of stealing it, or part of it, or of stealing its contents

interfere with /ˌɪntə'fɪə wɪð/ *verb* **1.** to act in a way that stops something happening or developing ○ *He was accused of interfering with the course of justice.* **2.** to use or try to use something that does not belong to you or to which you have no right, especially if damage is caused ○ *He had been seen interfering with the lock.* **3.** to persuade someone such as a witness or a juror to give false information or change their opinion **4.** to touch a child in a sexual way

interim /'ɪntərɪm/ *adjective* intended to happen or be used only until something more permanent is available □ **in the interim** meanwhile, for the time being

interim dividend /ˌɪntərɪm 'dɪvɪdend/ *noun* a dividend paid at the end of a half-year

interim injunction /ˌɪntərɪm ɪn 'dʒʌŋkʃən/ *noun* an injunction which prevents someone from doing something until a specified date

interim order /ˌɪntərɪm 'ɔːdə/ *noun* an order given which has effect while a case is still being heard

interim payment /ˌɪntərɪm 'peɪmənt/ *noun* a part payment of a dividend or of money owed

interim relief /ˌɪntərɪm rɪ'liːf/ *noun* same as **interim remedy**

interim remedy /ˌɪntərɪm 'remədi/ *noun* an action by a court to grant relief to a party while a claim is being processed, and even after judgment has been given

COMMENT: Interim remedies include interim injunctions, freezing injunctions, search orders, inspection of property, interim payments, etc.

interim report /ˌɪntərɪm rɪ'pɔːt/ *noun* **1.** a report (from a commission) which is not final **2.** a financial report given at the end of a half-year

interlocutory /ˌɪntə'lɒkjʊt(ə)ri/ *adjective* **1.** temporary or provisional **2.** happening at a court hearing which takes place before full trial

interlocutory injunction /ˌɪntəlɒkjʊt(ə)ri ɪn'dʒʌŋkʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an injunction which is granted for the period until a case comes to court

interlocutory judgment /ˌɪntəlɒkjʊt(ə)ri 'dʒʌdʒmənt/ *noun* a judgment given during the course of an action before full trial. Compare **final judgment**

interlocutory matter /ˌɪntəlɒkjʊt(ə)ri 'mætə/ *noun* a subsidiary dispute which is dealt with before full trial

interlocutory proceedings /ˌɪntəlɒkjʊt(ə)ri prə'siːdɪŋz/ *plural noun* court hearings that take place before the full trial

intermeddle /ˌɪntə'med(ə)l/ *verb* to deal in someone's affairs ○ *If an executor pays the debts of an estate, this can be considered intermeddling, and thus is acceptance of the office of executor.*

intermediary /ˌɪntə'miːdiəri/ *noun* somebody who is the link between parties who do not agree or who are negotiating ○ *He refused to act as an intermediary between the two directors.*

intern /ɪn'tɜːn/ *verb* to put someone in prison or other place of detainment without trial, usually for political reasons

internal /ɪn'tɜːn(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to the inside □ **internal affairs of a country** the way in which a country deals with its own citizens ○ *it is not usual for one country to criticize the internal affairs of another*

internal audit /ɪnˌtɜːn(ə)l 'ɔːdɪt/ *noun* an audit carried out by a department inside the company

internal auditor /ɪnˌtɜːn(ə)l 'ɔːdɪtə/ *noun* a member of staff who audits a company's accounts

international /ˌɪntə'næʃ(ə)nəl/ *adjective* working between countries

International Bar Association /ˌɪntənæʃ(ə)nəl 'bɑː əˌsəʊsieɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an international lawyers' organisation formed to promote international law

International Court of Justice /ˌɪntənæʃ(ə)nəl ˌkɔːt əv 'dʒʌstɪs/ *noun* the court of the United Nations, which sits in the Hague, Netherlands

International Labour Organization /ˌɪntənæʃ(ə)nəl 'leɪbə ˌɔːgənaɪ zeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a section of the United Nations which tries to improve working conditions and workers' pay in member countries. Abbreviation **ILO**

international law /ˌɪntənæʃ(ə)nəl 'lɔː/ *noun* law governing relations between countries

international lawyer /ˌɪntənæʃ(ə)nəl 'lɔːjə/ *noun* a person who specialises in international law

international politics /ˌɪntənæʃ(ə)nəl 'pɒlɪtɪks/ *plural noun* relationships between governments of different political parties and systems

internee /ˌɪntɜː'niː/ *noun* somebody who is interned

internment /ɪn'tɜːnmənt/ *noun* the act of being putting someone in prison or other place of detention without trial

inter partes /ˌɪntə 'pɑːteɪz/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'between the parties': case heard where both parties are represented ○ *The court's opinion was that the case should be heard inter partes as soon as possible.* ◊ **ex parte**

interpleader /ˌɪntə'pliːdə/ *noun* a court action started by a person who holds property which is claimed by two or more people, or by a person who may

be sued by two different parties (NOTE: Do not confuse with the US term **impleader**.)

Interpol /'ɪntəpɒl/ *noun* an international police organisation whereby the member countries co-operate in solving crimes ○ *They warned Interpol that the criminals might be disguised as women.* (NOTE: used without **the**)

interpret /ɪn'tɜːprɪt/ *verb* **1.** to say what you think a law or precedent means ○ *The role of the ECJ is to interpret a law, while the role of the national court is to apply it.* ○ *Courts in Member States cannot give authoritative rulings on how community law should be interpreted.* **2.** to translate what someone has said into another language ○ *My assistant knows Greek, so he will interpret for us.*

interpretation /ɪnˌtɜːprɪ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* what someone thinks is the meaning of a law or precedent ○ *Interpretation of the Treaty has been entrusted to the European Court of Justice.* □ **to put an interpretation on something** to make something have a different meaning ○ *His ruling puts quite a different interpretation on the responsibility of trustees.*

Interpretation Act /ɪnˌtɜːprɪ 'teɪʃ(ə)n ækt/ *noun* an Act of Parliament which rules how words used in other Acts of Parliament are to be understood

interpretation clause /ɪnˌtɜːprɪ 'teɪʃ(ə)n klɔːz/ *noun* a clause in a contract stating the meaning to be given to terms in the contract

interpreter /ɪn'tɜːprɪtə/ *noun* somebody who translates what someone has said into another language ○ *My secretary will act as interpreter.* ○ *The witness could not speak English and the court had to appoint an interpreter.*

interpretive /ɪn'tɜːrprɪtɪv/ *adjective* (*in the EU*) referring to interpretation ○ *There is an interpretive obligation on Member States to interpret national laws in a way which accords with the aims and objectives of the directives of the EU.*

interregnum /ˌɪntə'regnəm/ *noun* **1.** a period between the death or deposition of one monarch and the accession of the next **2.** a period during which no-one is at the head of an organisation or area until a new leader is appointed

interrogate /ɪn'terəgeɪt/ *verb* to ask questions in a severe manner ○ *The prisoners were interrogated for three hours.*

interrogation /ɪnˌterə'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* severe questioning ○ *He confessed to the crime during his interrogation.* ○ *Under interrogation, she gave the names of her accomplices.*

interrogator /ɪn'terəgeɪtə/ *noun* somebody who interrogates

interrogatories /ˌɪntə'rɒgət(ə)riz/ *plural noun* questions put in writing during a civil action by one side to the other and which have to be answered on oath (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has been replaced by **further information**.)

in terrorem /ɪn te'rɔːrem/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'in order to cause terror': used when a threat is implied in a contract in which case the contract is invalid

interrupt /ˌɪntə'rʌpt/ *verb* to try to speak or to shout when someone else is talking

COMMENT: In the House of Commons, an MP is allowed to interrupt another MP only if he wants to ask the member who is speaking to explain something or to raise a point of order.

intervene /ˌɪntə'viːn/ *verb* **1.** to come between people or things so as to make a change □ **to intervene in a dispute** to try to settle a dispute **2.** to become a party to an action

intervener /ˌɪntə'viːnə/ *noun* somebody who intervenes in an action to which he or she was not originally a party

intervention /ˌɪntə'venʃən/ *noun* an act made to make a change ○ *the government's intervention in the foreign exchange markets* ○ *the central bank's intervention in the banking crisis* ○ *the Association's intervention in the labour dispute*

interview /'ɪntəvjuː/ *noun* a meeting between a suspect and one or more police officers, who ask him or her questions

COMMENT: Suspects must be cautioned before an interview takes place. The interview should be recorded and the record must be shown to the suspect at the end of the interview. If there is any possibility that the police have threatened the suspect so as to get a confession, that confession will not be admitted in court.

interview room /'ɪntəvjuː ruːm/ *noun* a room where a person is asked questions or is interviewed

inter vivos /ˌɪntə 'viːvəʊs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'among living people'

COMMENT: An inter vivos transfer of property can be used as a way of passing property to someone without using a will; it does not necessarily take effect when someone dies, but can be put into effect as soon as it is signed.

intestacy /ɪn'testəsi/ *noun* dying without having made a will

intestate /ɪn'testeɪt/ *adjective* □ **to die intestate** to die without having made a will

COMMENT: When someone dies intestate, the property automatically goes to the surviving marital partner, unless there are children.

intestate succession /ɪnˌtestət sək'seʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the rules which apply when someone dies without having made a will

intimidate /ɪn'tɪmɪdeɪt/ *verb* to frighten someone to make him do something or to prevent him from doing something ○ *The accused was said to have intimidated the witnesses.*

intimidation /ɪnˌtɪmɪ'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of frightening someone to make them do something or to prevent them from doing something

intoxicated /ɪn'tɒksɪkeɪtɪd/ *adjective* showing the effects of having drunk alcohol

intoxication /ɪnˌtɒksɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the state of being drunk

in transit /ɪn 'trænzɪt/ *adverb* □ **goods in transit** goods being carried from one place to another

intra vires /ˌɪntrə 'vaɪriːz/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'within the permitted powers' ○ *The minister's action was ruled to be intra vires.* ◊ **ultra vires**

intrinsic evidence /ɪnˌtrɪnsɪk 'evɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* evidence used to interpret a document which can be found in the document itself. Compare **extrinsic evidence**

invalid /'ɪnvəlɪd/ *adjective* **1.** not legally effective ○ *a claim which has been declared invalid* ○ *The permit is out-of-date and therefore invalid.* ○ *National courts cannot find EU legislation to be invalid.* **2.** not based on the facts that are known ○ *an invalid argument*

invalidate /ɪn'vælɪdeɪt/ *verb* to make something invalid ○ *Because the company has been taken over, the contract has been invalidated.*

invalidation /ɪnˌvælɪ'deɪʃən/ *noun* the act of making something invalid

invalidity /ˌɪnvə'lɪdɪti/ *noun* the fact of being invalid ○ *The invalidity of the contract.*

invasion of privacy /ɪnˌveɪʒ(ə)n əv 'prɪvəsi/ *noun* action which causes disturbance to someone's private life, e.g. being followed intrusively by newspaper reporters

inventory /'ɪnvənt(ə)ri/ *noun* a complete list of all the things occurring in something such as a house for sale, an office for rent, or the estate of a deceased person ■ *verb* to make a list of the contents of a property

invest /ɪn'vest/ *verb* to put money into something such as a bank or a company where it is expected to increase in value ○ *He invested all his money in a shop.* ○ *She was advised to invest in real estate.*

investigate /ɪn'vestɪˌgeɪt/ *verb* to examine something which may be wrong

investigation /ɪnˌvestɪ'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an examination to find out what is wrong ○ *to conduct an investigation into irregularities in share dealings*

investigator /ɪn'vestɪgeɪtə/ *noun* somebody who investigates ○ *a government investigator*

investor /ɪn'vestə/ *noun* a person or company which invests money

invitee /ˌɪnvaɪ'tiː/ *noun* somebody who has accepted an invitation to go into a property

involuntarily /ɪn'vɒlənt(ə)rəlɪ/ *adverb* not willingly ○ *The accused's defence was that she acted involuntarily.*

involuntary /ɪn'vɒlənt(ə)ri/ *adjective* **1.** not done willingly **2.** without wanting to

involuntary conduct /ɪn ˌvɒlənt(ə)ri kən'dʌkt/ *noun* conduct beyond a person's control, offered as a defence to a criminal charge

involuntary manslaughter /ɪn ˌvɒlənt(ə)ri 'mænslɔːtə/ *noun* the killing someone through negligence, without having intended to do so

IOU /ˌaɪ əʊ 'juː/ *noun* a signed document promising that you will pay back money borrowed ○ *to pay a pile of IOUs* Full form **I owe you**

IPR *abbreviation* intellectual property rights

ipso facto /ˌɪpsəʊ 'fæktəʊ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'by this very fact' or 'the fact itself shows' ○ *The writing of the letter was ipso facto an admission of guilt.* ○ *He was found in the vehicle at the time of the accident and ipso facto was deemed to be in charge of it.*

ipso jure /ˌɪpsəʊ 'dʒʊəreɪ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'by the operation of the law itself'

irreconcilable /ɪˌrekən'saɪləb(ə)l/ *adjective* so opposed that agreement is not possible □ **irreconcilable differences** strong disagreement between a husband and wife which leads to divorce

irrecoverable /ˌɪrɪ'kʌv(ə)rəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being impossible to get back

irrecoverable debt /ɪrɪ ˌkʌv(ə)rəb(ə)l 'det/ *noun* a debt which will never be paid

irredeemable /ɪrɪ'diːməb(ə)l/ *adjective* being impossible to redeem

irredeemable bond /ɪrɪˌdiːməb(ə)l 'bɒnd/ *noun* a bond which has no date of maturity and which therefore provides interest but can never be redeemed at full value

irredentism /ˌɪrɪ'dentɪz(ə)m/ *noun* the act of trying to get back a colony or territory which has been lost to another country or which is felt to belong to the country because of similar language, culture, etc.

irredentist /ˌɪrɪ'dentɪst/ *noun* somebody who wants a territory returned

irregular /ɪ'regjʊlə/ *adjective* not following the usual rules, or not done in the way regarded as being correct ○ *irregular documentation* ○ *This procedure is highly irregular.*

irregularity /ɪˌregjʊ'lærɪti/ *noun* a situation in which the usual rules or ways of doing something have not been followed (*often plural*) ○ *to investigate irregularities in the share dealings*

irrelevant /ɪ'reləvənt/ *adjective* not relevant or important to what is being considered

irresistible impulse /ˌɪrɪzɪstəb(ə)l 'ɪmpʌls/ *noun* a strong wish to do something which you cannot resist because of insanity

irretrievable /ˌɪrɪ'triːvəb(ə)l/ *adjective* which cannot be brought back to its former state □ **irretrievable breakdown of a marriage** situation where the two spouses can no longer live together, where the marriage cannot be saved and therefore divorce proceedings can be started

irrevocable /ɪ'revəkəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being impossible to change

irrevocable acceptance /ɪ ˌrevəkəb(ə)l ək'septəns/ *noun* an acceptance which cannot be withdrawn

irrevocable letter of credit /ɪ ˌrevəkəb(ə)l ˌletər əv 'kredɪt/ *noun* a letter of credit which cannot be cancelled or changed

IRS *abbreviation US* Internal Revenue Service

Islamic Law /ɪz'læmɪk lɔː/ *noun* the law of some Muslim countries set out in the Koran and the teachings of the prophet Muhammad. The law cannot be changed, but it can be interpreted in different ways.

isolation /ˌaɪsə'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the state of being separated from other people **2.** □ **in isolation** kept on your own away from other people ○ *He had been kept in isolation for several weeks.*

isolationist /ˌaɪsə'leɪʃ(ə)nɪst/ *noun* somebody who believes that his or her country should not get involved in the af-

fairs of other countries, especially should not fight wars to protect other countries

issuance /'ɪʃuəns/ *noun* the act of issuing ○ *Upon issuance of the order, the bailiffs seized the property.*

issue /'ɪʃuː/ *noun* **1.** a subject that is discussed or argued about ○ *safety issues* ◊ **collateral issue** □ **at issue** under discussion as the most important aspect of a subject ○ *The point at issue is the ownership of the property.* □ **to have issues with *or* around something** to disagree or have problems with something (*informal*) ○ *I have issues around the idea of completely free access.* □ **to make an issue of something** to treat something as more important than it is ○ *I don't want to make an issue of it, but I thought her information could have been more detailed.* □ **to take issue with someone *or* over something** to disagree with someone or about something ○ *I have to take issue with you over the handling of the case.* ○ *Barristers took issue over the proposals to change the system.* **2.** a child or children of a parent ○ *He had issue two sons and one daughter.* ○ *She died without issue.* ○ *They have no issue.* (NOTE: In this meaning issue is either singular or plural and is not used with **the**.) **3.** the act of giving something to someone or making something available ○ *The issue of new parking permits is expected soon.* □ **issue of new shares**, **share issue** selling new shares in a company to the public ■ *verb* to announce or give something officially ○ *to issue a letter of credit* ○ *to issue shares in a new company* ○ *to issue a writ against someone* ○ *The government issued a report on London's traffic.* ○ *The Secretary of State issued guidelines for expenditure.* ○ *He issued writs for libel in connection with allegations made in a Sunday newspaper.*

issued capital /ˌɪʃuːd 'kæpɪt(ə)l/ *noun* the amount of capital which is given out as shares to shareholders

issued price /ˌɪʃuːd 'praɪs/ *noun* the price of shares in a new company when they are offered for sale for the first time

issuing bank /'ɪʃuɪŋ bæŋk/ *noun* a bank which organises the selling of shares in a new company

itemise /'aɪtəmaɪz/, **itemize** *verb* to make a detailed list of things ○ *itemising the sales figures will take about two days.*

itemised account /ˌaɪtəmaɪzd ə 'kaʊnt/ *noun* a detailed record of money paid or owed

item of expenditure /ˌaɪtəm əv ɪk 'spendɪtʃə/ *noun* something such as goods or a service which has been paid for and appears in the accounts

J

J /dʒeɪ/ *abbreviation* Justice ○ *Smith J said he was not laying down guidelines for sentencing.* (NOTE: often put after the name of a High Court judge: **Smith J** is spoken as 'Mr Justice Smith')

jactitation /ˌdʒæktɪˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of boasting that something is true when it is not

jactitation of marriage /ˌdʒæktɪteɪʃ(ə)n əv ˈmærɪdʒ/ *noun* the act of boasting that you are married to someone when you are not

jail /dʒeɪl/ *noun* a place where criminals are kept before trial or after they have been convicted ○ *He spent ten years in jail.* ■ *verb* to put someone in prison ○ *She was jailed for three years.* ○ *He was jailed for manslaughter.* (NOTE: also spelled **gaol** in British English)

jailbird /ˈdʒeɪlbɜːd/ *noun* somebody who is in prison or who has often been sent to prison

jailbreak /ˈdʒeɪlbreɪk/ *noun* escape from prison

jailer /ˈdʒeɪlə/ *noun* somebody who works in a jail or who is in charge of a jail

jaywalker /ˈdʒeɪwɔːkə/ *noun* somebody who walks across a street at a place which is not a proper crossing place

jaywalking /ˈdʒeɪwɔːkɪŋ/ *noun* the offence of walking across a street at a place which is not a proper crossing point for pedestrians

jeopardise /ˈdʒepədaɪz/**, jeopardize** *verb* to be likely to harm ○ *Her arrest for drunken driving may jeopardise her work as a doctor specialising in child care.*

jeopardy /ˈdʒepədi/ *noun* □ **to be in jeopardy** to be in danger of punishment or of harm □ **his driving licence is in jeopardy** he may lose his driving licence. ◊ **double jeopardy**

Job Centre /ˈdʒɒb ˌsentə/ *noun* a government office which lists and helps to fill jobs which are vacant

job evaluation /ˈdʒɒb ɪvælju ˌeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the assessment of different jobs within an organisation to see what skills and qualifications are needed to carry them out, with a view to establishing appropriate salaries

job openings /ˈdʒɒb ˌəʊp(ə)nɪŋz/ *plural noun* jobs which are empty and need filling

John Doe /ˌdʒɒn ˈdəʊ/ *noun* a name used as an example in fictitious cases

join /dʒɔɪn/ *verb* □ **to join someone to an action** to attach someone's name as one of the parties to an action

joinder /ˈdʒɔɪndə/ *noun* the act of bringing together several actions or several parties in one action. ◊ **misjoinder, nonjoinder**

joint /dʒɔɪnt/ *adjective* **1.** with two or more organisations or people linked together **2.** of two or more people who work together or who are linked ○ *joint beneficiary* ○ *joint managing director* ○ *joint owner* ○ *joint signatory* ■ *noun* a place or building (*slang*) □ **to case a joint** to look at a building carefully before deciding how to break into it

joint account /ˈdʒɔɪnt əˌkaʊnt/ *noun* a bank account for two people

joint and several /ˌdʒɔɪnt ən ˈsev(ə)rəl/ *adjective* as a group together and also separately

joint and several liability /ˌdʒɔɪnt ən ˌsev(ə)rəl ˌlaɪəˈbɪlɪti/ *noun* a situation where two or more parties share a single liability, and each party is also liable for the whole claim

joint commission of inquiry /dʒɔɪnt kəˌmɪʃ(ə)n əv ɪnˈkwaɪəri/, **joint committee** /ˌdʒɔɪnt kəˈmɪti/ *noun* a commission or committee with representatives of various organisations on it

joint committee /ˌdʒɔɪnt kəˈmɪti/ *noun* a committee formed of equal numbers of members of the House of Commons and House of Lords

joint discussions /ˌdʒɔɪnt dɪˈskʌʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* discussions between employers and employees before something is done

joint heir /ˌdʒɔɪnt ˈeə/ *noun* somebody who is an heir with someone else

joint liability /dʒɔɪnt ˌlaɪəˈbɪlɪti/ *noun* a situation where two or more parties share a single liability

jointly /ˈdʒɔɪntli/ *adverb* together with one or more other people ○ *to own a property jointly* ○ *to manage a company jointly* ○ *They are jointly liable for damages.* □ **jointly and severally liable** liable both as a group and as individuals

joint management /ˌdʒɔɪnt ˈmænɪdʒmənt/ *noun* management by two or more people

joint ownership /ˌdʒɔɪnt ˈəʊnəʃɪp/ *noun* a situation where two or more persons own the same property

joint-stock bank /ˌdʒɔɪnt ˈstɒk ˌbæŋk/ *noun* a bank which is a public company quoted on the Stock Exchange

joint-stock company /ˈdʒɔɪnt stɒk ˌkʌmp(ə)ni/ *noun* a company whose shares are held by many people

joint tenancy /ˌdʒɔɪnt ˈtenənsi/ *noun* a situation where two or more persons acquire an interest in a property together, where if one of the joint tenants dies, his or her share goes to those surviving. ◊ **tenancy in common**

joint tortfeasors /ˌdʒɔɪnt tɔːt ˈfiːzəz/ *plural noun* two or more people who are responsible and liable for a tort

jointure /ˈdʒɔɪntʃə/ *noun* the estate settled on a wife as part of the marriage settlement

joint venture /ˌdʒɔɪnt ˈventʃə/ *noun* a very large business partnership where two or more companies join together as partners for a limited period

joy riding /ˈdʒɔɪ ˌraɪdɪŋ/ *noun* the offence of taking a car without the permission of the owner and using it to drive about

JP *abbreviation* justice of the peace (NOTE: The plural is **JPs**.)

judge /dʒʌdʒ/ *noun* **1.** an official who presides over a court and in civil cases decides which party is in the right ○ *a County Court judge* ○ *a judge in the Divorce Court* ○ *The judge sent him to prison for embezzlement.* (NOTE: In the UK it is planned to transfer the appointment of judges to a Judicial Appointments Board.) **2.** one of the fifteen members of the European Court of Justice, appointed by the Member States ■ *verb* to decide ○ *He judged it was time to call an end to the discussions.*

COMMENT: In England, judges are appointed by the Lord Chancellor. The minimum requirement is that one should be a barrister or solicitor of ten years' standing. The majority of judges are barristers, but they cannot practise as barristers. Recorders are practising barristers who act as judges on a part-time basis. The appointment of judges is not a political appointment, and judges remain in office unless they are found guilty of gross misconduct. Judges cannot be Members of Parliament. In the USA, state judges can be appointed by the state governor or can be elected; in the federal courts and the Supreme Court, judges are appointed by the President, but the appointment has to be approved by Congress.

Judge Advocate-General /dʒʌdʒ ˌædvəkət ˈdʒen(ə)rəl/ *noun* a lawyer appointed by the state to advise on all legal matters concerning the army

Judge Advocate-General of the Forces /ˌdʒʌdʒ ˌædvəkət ˌdʒen(ə)rəl əv ðə ˈfɔːsɪz/ *noun* a lawyer appointed by the state to advise on all legal matters concerning the Army and Air Force

Judge Advocate of the Fleet /ˌdʒʌdʒ ˌædvəkət əv ðə ˈfliːt/ *noun* a lawyer appointed by the state to advise on all legal matters concerning the Royal Navy

judge in chambers /ˌdʒʌdʒ ɪn ˈtʃeɪmbəz/ *noun* a judge who hears a case in private rooms without the public being present and not in open court

Judges' Rules /ˌdʒʌdʒɪz 'ruːlz/ *noun* an informal set of rules governing how the police may question a suspect

judgment /'dʒʌdʒmənt/**, judgement** *noun* an official decision of a court □ **to pronounce judgment**, **to give one's judgment on something** to give an official or legal decision about something □ **to enter judgement**, **to take judgment** to record an official judgment on a case □ **to enter judgment for the claimant** to make a legal judgment that the claimant's claim is accepted □ **to enter judgment against the claimant** to make a legal judgment that the claimant's claim is not accepted □ **the claimant entered judgment in default** the claimant took judgment (because the defendant failed to defend the case)

judgment by default /ˌdʒʌdʒmənt baɪ dɪ'fɔːlt/ *noun US* a judgment without trial against a defendant who fails to respond to a claim

judgment creditor /ˌdʒʌdʒmənt 'kredɪtə/ *noun* somebody who has been given a court order making a debtor pay a debt

judgment debtor /'dʒʌdʒmənt ˌdetə/ *noun* somebody who has been ordered by a court to pay a debt

judgment summons /ˌdʒʌdʒmənt 'sʌmənz/ *noun* a summons by a court to enforce a court order, such as ordering a judgment debtor to pay or to go to prison (NOTE: The spelling **judgment** is used by lawyers.)

judicata ◗ **res judicata**

judicature /'dʒuːdɪkətʃə/ *noun* administration of justice □ **judicature paper** thick heavy paper on which court documents are engrossed. ◊ **Supreme Court**

judice ◗ **sub judice**

judicial /dʒuː'dɪʃ(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** referring to a judge or the law □ **the Judicial Committee of the House of Lords** the highest appeal court in England and Wales **2.** done in a court or by a judge

Judicial Committee of the House of Lords /dʒuːˌdɪʃ(ə)l kə'mɪti əv ðiː haʊz lɔːds/ *noun* the highest court of appeal in both civil and criminal cases in England and Wales

Judicial Committee of the Privy Council /dʒuːˌdɪʃ(ə)l kəˌmɪti əv ðə ˌprɪvi 'kaʊns(ə)l/ *noun* the appeal court for appeals from courts outside the UK, such as the courts of some Commonwealth countries

judicial immunity /dʒuːˌdɪʃ(ə)l ɪ 'mjuːnɪti/ *noun* a safety from prosecution granted to judges when acting in a judicial capacity

judicial notice /dʒuːˌdɪʃ(ə)l 'nəʊtɪs/ *noun* facts and matters which a judge is presumed to know, so that evidence does not have to be produced to prove them, such as that New Year's Day is January 1st or that a small baby is not capable of walking

judicial precedent /dʒuːˌdɪʃ(ə)l 'presɪd(ə)nt/ *noun* a precedent set by a court decision, which can be reversed only by a higher court

judicial processes /dʒuːˌdɪʃ(ə)l 'prəʊsesɪz/ *plural noun* the ways in which the law works

judicial review /dʒuːˌdɪʃ(ə)l rɪ'vjuː/ *noun* a review by a higher court of the actions of a lower court or of an administrative body

judicial separation /dʒuːˌdɪʃ(ə)l ˌsepə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a decree of a court acknowledging the separation of a married couple, but neither person is allowed to marry again because they are not divorced. Also called **legal separation**

judiciary /'dʒʊ'dɪʃəri/ *noun* □ **the judiciary** all judges, the court system, the judicial power in general

jump /dʒʌmp/ ◗ **bail**

junior /'dʒuːniə/ *adjective* younger or lower in rank □ **John Smith, Junior** the younger John Smith (i.e. the son of John Smith, Senior) ■ *noun* **1.** a barrister who is not a Queen's Counsel **2.** a barrister appearing with a leader ▸ also called **junior barrister**

junior clerk /ˌdʒuːniə 'klɑːk/ *noun* a clerk, usually young person, who has lower status than a senior clerk

junior executive /ˌdʒuːniə ɪg 'zekjʊtɪv/ *noun* a less important manager in a company

junior partner /ˌdʒuːniə 'pɑːtnə/ *noun* somebody who has a small part of the shares in a partnership

jurat /'dʒʊəræt/ *noun* words at the end of an affidavit, showing the details of when and by whom it was sworn

juridical /dʒʊ'rɪdɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to the law or to judges

jurisdiction /ˌdʒʊərɪs'dɪkʃən/ *noun* legal power over someone or something □ **within the jurisdiction of the court** in the legal power of a court □ **outside the jurisdiction of the court** not covered by the legal power of the court □ **the prisoner refused to recognize the jurisdiction of the court** the prisoner said that he or she did not believe that the court had the legal right to try them

jurisdictional /ˌdʒʊərɪs'dɪkʃənəl/ *adjective* referring to court's jurisdiction

jurisprudence /ˌdʒʊərɪs'pruːdəns/ *noun* the study of the law and the legal system

jurist /'dʒʊərɪst/ *noun* a person who has specialised in the study and practice of law

juristic /ˌdʒʊə'rɪstɪk/ *adjective* according to the practice of law

juror /'dʒʊərə/ *noun* a member of a jury

COMMENT: Jurors can be selected from registered electors who are between eighteen and sixty-five years old and who have been resident in the UK for five years. Barristers, solicitors, judges, priests, doctors, Members of Parliament, people who are insane are among the categories of people disqualified from being jurors.

jury /'dʒʊəri/ *noun* a group of twelve citizens who are sworn to decide whether someone is guilty or not guilty on the basis of the evidence they hear in court □ **he has been called for jury service**, **for jury duty** *US* he has been asked to do his duty as a citizen and serve on a jury □ **'Members of the jury'** way of speaking to a jury in court □ **the foreman of the jury** the chief juror, elected by the other jurors, who chairs the discussions of the jury and pronounces the verdict in court afterwards

COMMENT: Juries are used in criminal cases, and in some civil actions, notably actions for libel. They are also used in some coroner's inquests. The role of the jury is use their common sense to decide if the verdict should be for or against the accused. Jurors have no knowledge of the law and follow the explanations given to them by the judge. Anyone whose name appears on the electoral register and who is between the ages of 18 and 70 is eligible for jury service. Judges, magistrates, barristers and solicitors are not eligible for jury service, nor are priests, people who are on bail, and people suffering from mental illness. People who are excused jury service include members of the armed forces, Members of Parliament and doctors. Potential jurors can be challenged if one of the parties to the case thinks they are or may be biased.

jury box /'dʒʊəri bɒks/ *noun* a place where the jury sit in the courtroom

juryman /'dʒʊərimən/ *noun* a member of a jury (NOTE: The plural is **jurymen**.)

jury room /'dʒʊəri ruːm/ *noun* a room where a jury meet to discuss the trial and reach a verdict

jury service /'dʒʊəri ˌsɜːvɪs/ *noun* the duty which each citizen has of serving on a jury if asked to do so

jury vetting /ˌdʒʊəri 'vetɪŋ/ *noun* the examination of each of the proposed members of a jury to see if he or she is qualified to be a juror

jus /dʒʌs/ *noun* a Latin word meaning 'law' or 'right'

jus accrescendi /ˌdʒʌs ˌækre'sendi/ ◆ **survivorship**

just /dʒʌst/ *adjective* fair or right □ **to show just cause** to show a reason which is fair and acceptable in law □ **just war** war which is considered to be morally right

justice /'dʒʌstɪs/ *noun* **1.** fair treatment under the law □ **to administer justice** to provide justice □ **to bring a criminal to justice** to find a criminal and charge him with an offence **2.** a magistrate **3.** a judge **4.** the title given to a High Court judge ○ *Mr Justice Adams*

justice of the peace /ˌdʒʌstɪs əv ðə 'piːs/ *noun* a magistrate or local judge. Abbreviation **JP**

justices' chief executive /ˌdʒʌstɪsɪz ˌtʃiːf ɪg'zekjʊtɪv/ *noun* a senior administrator appointed by a mag-

istrates' courts committee to run the courts in an area, but not to give legal advice

justices' clerk /ˌdʒʌstɪsɪz 'clɑːk/ *noun* an official of a magistrates' court who gives advice to the justices on law, practice or procedure; he or she reports to the justices' chief executive of their area

justiciable /dʒʌs'tɪʃəb(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to a legal principle which can be subject to laws ○ *Some people question whether subsidiarity is justiciable.*

justiciary /dʒʌs'tɪʃəri/ *noun* all judges

justifiable /'dʒʌstɪfaɪəb(ə)l/ *adjective* excusable

justifiable homicide /ˌdʒʌstɪfaɪəb(ə)l 'hɒmɪsaɪd/ *noun* the act of killing a person for an acceptable reason such as self-defence

justification /ˌdʒʌstɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an acceptable reason for doing something □ **in justification** as an acceptable excuse for something ○ *In justification, the accused claimed that the burglar had attacked him with an axe.* ○ *He wrote a letter in justification of his decision.* ○ *The defendant entered defence of justification.* □ **with some justification** having a good reason for something ○ *She claimed, with some justification, that she could not have known about the change as the letter had gone to the wrong address.*

justify /'dʒʌstɪˌfaɪ/ *verb* to give an excuse for □ **the end justifies the means** if the result is right, the means used to reach it are acceptable

justitia ◗ **fiat justitia**

juvenile /'dʒuːvənaɪl/ *noun, adjective* a young person under seventeen years of age

Juvenile Court /'dʒuːvəˌnaɪl kɔːt/ *noun* a court which tries young offenders ○ *The appeal court quashed the care order made by the juvenile court.* (NOTE: The **Juvenile Court** is now called the **Youth Court**.)

juvenile delinquent /ˌdʒuːvənaɪl dɪ 'lɪŋkwənt/ *noun* a young criminal who commits minor crimes, especially against property

juvenile offender /ˌdʒuːvənaɪl ə 'fendə/ *noun* the former term for a young person tried in a Juvenile Court (NOTE: Now replaced by **young offender**.)

K

kangaroo court /ˌkæŋgə'ruː kɔːt/ *noun* an unofficial and illegal court set up by a group of people

KC *abbreviation* King's Counsel

keeper /'kiːpə/ *noun* somebody who keeps something

Keeper of the Great Seal /ˌkiːpər əv ðiː ˌgreɪt 'siːl/ *noun* the Lord Chancellor

Keogh plan /'kiːəʊ ˌplæn/ *noun US* a private pension programme which allows self-employed businessmen and professionals to set up pension plans for themselves

kerb crawling /ˌkɜːb 'krɔːlɪŋ/ *noun* driving slowly in order to importune women standing on the pavement

key money /'kiː ˌmʌni/ *noun* a premium paid when taking over the keys of a flat or office which you are renting

kickback /'kɪkbæk/ *noun* an illegal commission paid to someone, especially a government official, who helps in a business deal

kidnap /'kɪdnæp/ *verb* to take away someone and keep them somewhere against their will, usually asking for money to be paid or conditions to be met before they can be released

kidnapper /'kɪdnæpə/ *noun* somebody who kidnaps someone

kidnapping /'kɪdnæpɪŋ/ *noun* the notifiable offence of taking away a person by force

kill /kɪl/ *verb* to make someone die ○ *He was accused of killing his girlfriend with a knife.*

killer /'kɪlə/ *noun* somebody who kills ○ *The police are searching for the girl's killer.*

kin /kɪn/ *plural noun* relatives or close members of the family. ◊ **next of kin**

King's Counsel /ˌkɪŋz 'kaʊnsəl/ *noun* abbreviation **KC**. ◆ **Queen's Counsel** (NOTE: There is no plural for **counsel** which is always used in the singular whether it refers to one barrister or several, and it is never used with the article **the** or **a**. On the other hand, the abbreviation QC can have a plural: *Two QCs represented the defendant.*)

kitemark /'kaɪtmɑːk/ *noun* a mark put on British goods to show that they meet official standards

kleptomania /ˌkleptəʊ'meɪniə/ *noun* a mental illness which makes someone steal things

kleptomaniac /ˌkleptəʊ'meɪniæk/ *noun* somebody who steals things because he or she suffers from kleptomania

knock-for-knock agreement /ˌnɒk fə ˌnɒk ə'griːmənt/ *noun* an agreement between two insurance companies that they will not take legal action against each other, and that each will pay the claims of their own clients

knowingly /'nəʊɪŋli/ *adverb* deliberately ○ *It was charged that he knowingly broke the Official Secrets Act by publishing the document in his newspaper.*

L

labour /'leɪbə/ *noun* **1.** heavy work □ **to charge for materials and labour** to charge for both the materials used in a job and also the hours of work involved **2.** the workforce in general (NOTE: [all senses] The US spelling is **labor**.) □ **skilled labour** workers who have special knowledge or qualifications

labourer /'leɪbərə/ *noun* somebody who does unskilled work (NOTE: The US spelling is **laborer**.)

labour-intensive industry /ˌleɪbər ɪnˌtensɪv 'ɪndəstri/ *noun* an industry which needs large numbers of employees or where labour costs are high in relation to turnover

labour law /'leɪbə lɔː/**, labour laws** /'leɪbə lɔːz/**, labour legislation** /ˌleɪbə ˌledʒɪ'sleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun US* law relating to the employment of workers

laches /'lætʃɪz/ *noun* long delay or neglect in asserting a legal right. ◊ **statute of limitations**

lading /'leɪdɪŋ/ ◊ **bill of lading**

Lady Day /'leɪdi deɪ/ *noun* 25th March, one of the quarter days when rent is paid for land

laissez-faire /ˌleɪseɪ 'feə/**, laisser-faire** *noun* a political theory where a government does nothing to control the economy ○ *Laissez-faire policies resulted in increased economic activity, but contributed to a rise in imports.*

land /lænd/ *noun* an area of earth

COMMENT: Under English law, the ownership of all land is vested in the Crown; individuals or other legal persons may however hold estates in land, the most important of which are freehold estates (which amount to absolute ownership) and leasehold estates (which last for a fixed period of time). Ownership of land usually confers ownership of everything above and below the land. The process of buying and selling land is 'conveyancing'. Any contract transferring land or any interest in land must be in writing. Interests in land can be disposed of by a will.

land agent /'lænd ˌeɪdʒənt/ *noun* somebody who manages a farm or large area of land for someone

land certificate /'lænd səˌtɪfɪkət/ *noun* a document which shows who owns a piece of land, and whether there are any charges on it

land charges /'lænd ˌtʃɑːdʒɪz/ *plural noun* covenants, mortgages, etc., which are attached to a piece of land

landing card /'lændɪŋ kɑːd/ *noun* a card given to passengers who have passed customs and can land from a ship or an aircraft

landing charges /'lændɪŋ ˌtʃɑːdʒɪz/ *plural noun* payment for putting goods on land and for customs duties

landing order /'lændɪŋ ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a permit which allows goods to be unloaded into a bonded warehouse without paying customs duty

landlady /'lændleɪdi/ *noun* a woman who owns a property which she lets

landlord /'lændlɔːd/ *noun* a person or company which owns a property which is let

Landlord and Tenant Act /ˌlændlɔːd ən 'tenənt ˌækt/ *noun* an Act of Parliament which regulates the letting of property

landmark decision /ˌlændmɑːk dɪ 'sɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* a legal or legislative decision which creates an important legal precedent

landowner /'lændəʊnə/ *noun* somebody who owns large areas of land

land register /'lænd ˌredʒɪstə/ *noun* a register of land, showing who owns it and what buildings are on it

land registration /'lænd redʒɪ ˌstreɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a system of registering land and its owners

Land Registry /'lænd ˌredʒɪstri/ *noun* the British government office where details of land and its ownership are kept

lands /lændz/ *plural noun* large areas of land owned by one owner

Lands Tribunal /'lɑːndz traɪ ˌbjuːn(ə)l/ *noun* a court which deals with compensation claims relating to land

land tax /'lænd tæks/ *noun* a tax on the amount of land owned

land tenure /'lænd ˌtenjə/ *noun* a way in which land is owned such as leasehold or freehold

lapse /læps/ *noun* **1.** □ **a lapse of time** a period of time which has passed **2.** the ending of a right, a privilege or an offer, e.g. the termination of an insurance policy because the premiums have not been paid **3.** the failure of a legacy because the beneficiary has died before the testator ■ *verb* to stop being valid or effective □ **to let an offer lapse** to allow time to pass so that an offer is no longer valid □ **lapsed passport** passport which is out of date

lapsed legacy /ˌlæpst 'legəsi/ *noun* a legacy which cannot be put into effect because the person who should have received it died before the person who made the will

lapsed policy /læpst 'pɒlɪsi/, **lapsed insurance policy** /læpst ɪnˌʃʊərəns 'pɒlɪsi/ *noun* insurance which is no longer valid because the premiums have not been paid

larceny /'lɑːs(ə)ni/ *noun* the crime of stealing goods which belong to another person ○ *She was convicted of larceny.*

COMMENT: Larceny no longer exists in English law, having been replaced by the crime of theft.

last /lɑːst/ *adjective*, *adverb* coming at the end of a series ○ *Out of a queue of twenty people, I was served last.* ○ *This is our last board meeting before we move to our new offices.* ○ *This is the last case which the magistrates will hear before lunch.*

last in first out /ˌlɑːst ɪn ˌfɜːst 'aʊt/ *phrase* **1.** in a redundancy situation, the dismissal of the people who have been most recently appointed before people who have longer service **2.** accounting method where stock is valued at the price of the latest purchases ▸ abbreviation **LIFO**

last will and testament /ˌlɑːst ˌwɪl ən 'testəmənt/ *noun* a document by which a person says what they want to happen to their property when they die

late /leɪt/ *adjective* **1.** after the time stated or agreed ○ *We apologise for the late start of this meeting.* □ **there is a penalty for late delivery** if delivery is later than the agreed date, the supplier has to pay a fine **2.** at the end of a period of time □ **latest date for signature of the contract** the last acceptable date for signing the contract **3.** dead ○ *She inherited a fortune from his late uncle.*

latent /'leɪt(ə)nt/ *adjective* existing but not obvious or visible

latent ambiguity /ˌleɪt(ə)nt ˌæmbɪ 'gjuːɪti/ *noun* a word or phrase in a contract which can mean two or more things, but which does not appear to be misleading at first

latent defect /ˌleɪt(ə)nt 'diːfekt/ *noun* a fault which cannot be seen immediately

launder /'lɔːndə/ *verb* to transfer illegal or stolen money into an ordinary bank account, usually by a complex process to avoid detection (*slang*) ○ *The proceeds of the robbery were laundered through a bank in the Caribbean.*

law /lɔː/ *noun* **1.** a written or unwritten rule by which a country is governed and the activities of people and organisations are controlled. A written law in the UK is an Act of Parliament which has received the Royal Assent, or, in the US, an Act of Congress which has been signed by the President or which has been passed by Congress over the President's veto. ○ *A law has to be passed by Parliament.* ○ *The government has proposed a new law to regulate the sale of goods on Sundays.*

2. □ **contract law, the law of contract** laws relating to agreements □ **to take someone to law** to sue someone □ **inside the law, within the law** obeying the laws of a country □ **against the law, outside the law** not according to the laws of a country ○ *Dismissing an employee without reason is against the law.* ○ *The company is operating outside the law.* □ **in law** according to the law ○ *What are the duties in law of a guardian?* □ **to break the law** to do something which is against the law ○ *He is breaking the law by selling goods on Sunday.* ○ *You will be breaking the law if you try to take that computer out of the country without an export licence.* **3.** a general rule **4.** □ **the law** the police and the courts (*informal*) ○ *The law will catch up with him in the end.* ○ *If you don't stop making that noise I'll have the law on you.* □ **the strong, long arm of the law** ability of the police to catch criminals and deal with crime

law and order /ˌlɔː ənd ˈɔːdə/ *noun* a situation where the laws of a country are being obeyed by most people ○ *There was a breakdown of law and order following the assassination of the president.*

lawbreaker /ˈlɔːˌbreɪkə/ *noun* somebody who breaks the law

law-breaking /ˈlɔː ˌbreɪkɪŋ/ *noun* the act of doing something which is against the law

Law Centre /ˈlɔː ˌsentə/ *noun* a local office, especially in London, with full-time staff who advise and represent clients free of charge

Law Commission /ˈlɔː kəˌmɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a permanent committee which reviews English law and recommends changes to it

law court /ˈlɔː kɔːt/ *noun* a place where trials are held

COMMENT: In civil cases he decides which party is right legally; in criminal cases the decision is made by a jury, and the judge passes sentence.

law enforcement /ˈlɔː ɪnˌfɔːsmənt/ *noun* the activity of making sure that laws are obeyed

law enforcement officers /ˈlɔːr ɪn ˌfɔːsmənt ˌɒfɪsːəz/ *plural noun* people who have the official role of making sure that people obey the law, e.g. police officers

lawful /ˈlɔːf(ə)l/ *adjective* acting within the law

lawfully /ˈlɔːfʊli/ *adverb* acting within the law

lawful picketing /ˌlɔːf(ə)l ˈpɪkətɪŋ/ *noun* picketing which is allowed by law

lawful practice /ˌlɔːf(ə)l ˈpræktɪs/ *noun* an action which is permitted by the law

lawful trade /ˌlɔːf(ə)l ˈtreɪd/ *noun* trade which is allowed by law

lawless /ˈlɔːləs/ *adjective* not controlled by the law or by the police ○ *The magistrates criticised the lawless behaviour of the football crowd.*

lawlessness /ˈlɔːləsnəs/ *noun* the state of being lawless ○ *The government is trying to fight lawlessness in large cities.*

Law List /ˈlɔː lɪst/ *noun* an annual published list of barristers and solicitors

Law Lords /ˈlɔː lɔːdz/ *plural noun* members of the House of Lords who are or were judges, including the Lord Chancellor and the Lords of Appeal in Ordinary

law-making /ˈlɔː ˌmeɪkɪŋ/ *noun* the process of making of laws ○ *Parliament is the law-making body in Great Britain.*

lawman /ˈlɔːmæn/ *noun US* a policeman (NOTE: The plural is **lawmen**.)

law merchant /ˈlɔː ˌmɜːtʃənt/ *noun* same as **mercantile law**

Law Officers /ˈlɔːr ˌɒfɪsːəz/ *plural noun* members of the British government, but not members of the Cabinet: the Attorney-General and Solicitor-General in England and Wales, and the Lord Advocate and Solicitor-General in Scotland

COMMENT: The Law Officers advise the government and individual ministries on legal matters. The Attorney-General will prosecute in trials for serious crimes.

law of master and servant /lɔː əv ˌmɑːstə ən ˈsɜːvənt/ *noun* same as **employment law**

law of property /ˌlɔː əv ˈprɒpəti/ *noun* a branch of the law dealing with the rights of ownership

law of succession /ˌlɔː əv səkˈseʃ(ə)n/ *noun* law relating to how property shall pass to others when the owner dies

law of supply and demand /ˌlɔːr əv səˌplaɪ ən dɪˈmɑːnd/ *noun* the general rule that the amount of a product which is available is related to the needs of possible customers

law reform /ˌlɔː rɪˈfɔːm/ *noun* the continuing process of revising laws to make them better suited to the needs of society

Law Reports /ˈlɔː rɪˌpɔːts/ *plural noun* regular reports of new cases and legislation

law school /ˈlɔː skuːl/ *noun US* a school where lawyers are trained

Law Society /ˌlɔː səˈsaɪəti/ *noun* an organisation of solicitors in England and Wales, which represents and regulates the profession

Laws of Oleron /ˌlɔːz əv ˈɒlərɒn/ *plural noun* the first maritime laws, drawn up in 1216 and used as a base for subsequent international laws

law stationer /ˈlɔː ˌsteɪʃ(ə)nə/ *noun* a person who specialises in supplying stationery to legal firms

lawsuit /ˈlɔːsuːt/ *noun US* a case brought to a court by a private person □ **to bring a lawsuit against someone** to tell someone to appear in court to settle an argument □ **to defend a lawsuit** to appear in court to state your case

lawyer /ˈlɔːjə/ *noun* a person who has studied law and can act for people on legal business

lay /leɪ/ *verb* □ **to lay down** to state clearly ○ *The conditions are laid down in the document.* ○ *The guidelines lay down rules for dealing with traffic offences.* ■ *adjective* not belonging to a specific profession

lay assessor /ˈleɪ əˌsesə/ *noun* a person who is not a lawyer who has technical knowledge of a subject and advises a court on specialised matters

lay magistrate /ˌleɪ ˈmædʒɪstreɪt/ *noun* an unpaid magistrate who is not usually a qualified lawyer. Compare **stipendiary magistrate**

layperson /ˈleɪmən/, **layman, laywoman** *noun* somebody who does not belong to the legal profession (NOTE: The plural is **laymen**.)

lay representative /leɪ ˌreprɪˈzentətɪv/ *noun* a person representing someone in a case in the small claims track who is not a solicitor, barrister or legal executive

LC *abbreviation* Lord Chancellor

L/C *abbreviation* letter of credit

LCJ *abbreviation* Lord Chief Justice

lead /liːd/ *noun* a piece of information which may help solve a crime ○ *The police are following up several leads in the murder investigation.* ■ *verb* **1.** to be the first or in front ○ *The company leads the market in cheap computers.* **2.** to be the main person in charge of a group **3.** to be the main person in a team of barristers appearing for one side in a case ○ *The prosecution is led by J.M. Jones, QC.* ○ *Mr Smith is leading for the Crown.* **4.** to start to do something such as present a case in court ○ *Mr Jones led for the prosecution.* ○ *The Home Secretary will lead for the Government in the emergency debate.* **5.** to bring evidence before a court **6.** to try to make a witness answer a question in court in a specific way ○ *Counsel must not lead the witness.* (NOTE: **leading – led – has led**)

leader /ˈliːdə/ *noun* **1.** somebody who manages or directs others ○ *She is the leader of the trade delegation to Nigeria.* ○ *The minister was the leader of the party of lawyers on a tour of American courts.* **2.** the main barrister, usually a QC, in a team appearing for one side in a case **3.** a product which sells best □ **a market leader** product which sells most in a market or company which has the largest share of a market

COMMENT: Normally a party leader has a great deal of power when it comes to making appointments and deciding party policy. In Britain, the leader of a party may feel bound to follow policy decisions laid down by the party conference. This may restrict the leader's room for manoeuvre.

leading /ˈliːdɪŋ/ *adjective* most important ○ *Leading shares rose on the Stock Exchange* ○ *Leading businessmen feel the end of the recession is near.* ○ *Lead-*

ing shareholders in the company forced a change in management policy. ○ *They are the leading company in the field.*

COMMENT: Leading questions may be asked during cross-examination or during examination in chief.

leading cases /ˌliːdɪŋ 'keɪsɪz/ *plural noun* important cases which have set precedents

leading counsel /ˌliːdɪŋ 'kaʊnsəl/ *noun* the main barrister, usually a QC, in a team appearing for one side in a case

leading question /ˌliːdɪŋ 'kweʃtʃən/ *noun* a question put by a barrister to a witness which strongly suggests to the witness what the answer ought to be, e.g. a question which can only be answered 'Yes' or 'No'

leak /liːk/ *noun* the unofficial passing of information which has not yet been published, by officials, MPs or employees to newspapers. TV or radio stations, or other public forums. ○ *The government is investigating the latest leak of documents relating to the spy trial.* ■ *verb* to make secret information public without being authorised to do so ○ *The details of the plan have been leaked to the press to test public reaction.*

lease /liːs/ *noun* **1.** a written contract for letting or renting of a building, a piece of land or a piece of equipment for a period of time on payment of a fee □ **the lease expires**, **runs out in 2010** the lease comes to an end in 2010 □ **on expiration of the lease** when the lease comes to an end. ◊ **demise 2.** □ **to hold an oil lease in the North Sea** to have a lease on a section of the North Sea to explore for oil ■ *verb* **1.** to let or rent offices, land or machinery for a period ○ *to lease offices to small firms* ○ *to lease equipment* **2.** to use an office, land or machinery for a time and pay a fee to the landlord or lessor ○ *to lease an office from an insurance company* ○ *All our company cars are leased.*

lease back /ˌliːs 'bæk/ *verb* to sell a property or machinery to a company and then take it back on a lease ○ *They sold the office building to raise cash, and then leased it back for twenty-five years.*

lease-back /'liːs bæk/ *noun* an arrangement by which property is sold and then taken back on a lease ○ *They sold the office building and then took it back under a lease-back arrangement.*

leasehold /'liːshəʊld/ *adjective*, *adverb* on the basis of a lease ○ *a leasehold property* ○ *to purchase a flat leasehold* ■ *noun* a property which is held for a period of time on the basis of a lease ○ *The company has some valuable leaseholds in the city centre.*

leasehold enfranchisement /ˌliːshəʊld ɪn'frænʃaɪzmənt/ *noun* the right of a leaseholder to buy the freehold of the property which he or she is leasing

leaseholder /'liːshəʊldə/ *noun* somebody who holds a property on a lease

leasing /'liːsɪŋ/ *noun* the activity of let someone use something for a period on payment of a fee ○ *The company has branched out into car leasing.* ■ *adjective* providing something on the basis of a lease ○ *to run a photocopier under a leasing arrangement* ○ *a computer-leasing company*

leave /liːv/ *noun* **1.** permission to do something ○ *Counsel asked leave of the court to show a film taken of the accident.* □ **'by your leave'** with your permission □ **leave to defend** permission from a court allowing someone to defend himself against an accusation **2.** a permitted period of being away from work. ◊ **maternity leave, paternity leave, sick leave** □ **leave of absence** permission to be away from work for a period for an unexpected reason □ **to go on leave**, **to be on leave** to be away from work on holiday ○ *She is away on sick leave* or *on maternity leave.* ■ *verb* **1.** to go away from somewhere or someone ○ *The next plane leaves at 10.20.* ○ *He left his office early to go to the meeting.* **2.** to give property to someone when you die ○ *He left his house to his wife.* ○ *I was left £5,000 by my grandmother in her will.* **3.** to resign ○ *She left her job and started up a new business.* (NOTE: **leaving – left – has left**)

left /left/ *noun* □ **swing to the left** movement of support towards socialist principles

left of centre /ˌleft əv 'sentə/ *adjective* tending towards socialism

legacy /'legəsi/ *noun* money or personal property excluding land given by someone to someone else in a will ○ *She received a small legacy in her uncle's will.*

COMMENT: Freehold land left to someone in a will is a **devise**.

legal /'liːg(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** according to or allowed by the law ○ *The company's action was completely legal.* **2.** referring to the law □ **to take legal action**, **to start legal proceedings** to sue someone, to take someone to court □ **to take legal advice** to ask a lawyer to advise about a problem in law □ **legal department**, **legal section** section of a company dealing with legal matters

legal adviser /ˌliːg(ə)l əd'vaɪzə/ *noun* somebody who advises clients about problems in law

legal age /'liːg(ə)l eɪdʒ/ *noun US* the age at which a person can sue or can be sued or can undertake business

Legal Aid /ˌliːg(ə)l 'eɪd/ *noun* a former British government scheme whereby a person with very little money could have legal representation and advice paid for by the state. Now administered by the Legal Services Commission.

Legal Aid Centre /ˌliːg(ə)l 'eɪd ˌsentə/ *noun* formerly, a local office giving advice to clients with legal problems, assisting with Legal Aid applications and recommending clients to solicitors. ◊ **Legal Services Commission**

legal certainty /ˌliːg(ə)l 'sɜːt(ə)nti/ *noun* in European law, a principle which states that vested rights are not retroactive, that legislation shall not have retrospective effect, and that the legitimate expectations of a claimant must be respected

legal charge /ˌliːg(ə)l 'tʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* a charge created over property by a legal mortgage

legal claim /'liːg(ə)l kleɪm/ *noun* a statement that someone owns something legally ○ *He has no legal claim to the property.*

legal claim to something /ˌliːg(ə)l kleɪm tə 'sʌmθɪŋ/ *noun* a statement that you think you own something legally ○ *He has no legal claim to the property* or *to the car.*

legal costs /'liːg(ə)l kɒsts/ *noun* money spent on fees to lawyers

legal currency /ˌliːg(ə)l 'kʌrənsi/ *noun* the money that is legally used in a country

legal executive /ˌliːg(ə)l ɪg'zekjʊtɪv/ *noun* a clerk in a solicitor's office who is not a solicitor and is not articled to become one, but has passed the examinations of the Institute of Legal Executives

COMMENT: Legal executives deal with a lot of the background work in solicitors' offices, including probate, conveyancing, matrimonial disputes, etc. They can speak before a judge on questions which are not contested.

legal expenses insurance /ˌliːg(ə)l ɪkˌspensɪz ɪn'ʃʊərəns/ *noun* insurance which will pay the costs of a court case

legal expert /'liːg(ə)l ˌekspɜːt/ *noun* somebody who has a wide knowledge of the law

legal holiday /ˌliːg(ə)l 'hɒlɪdeɪ/ *noun* a day when banks and other businesses are closed

legalisation /ˌliːgəlaɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/**, legalization** *noun* the process of making something legal ○ *the campaign for the legalisation of abortion*

legalise /'liːgəlaɪz/**, legalize** *verb* to make something legal

legality /lɪ'gælɪti/ *noun* the fact of being allowed by law ○ *There is doubt about the legality of the company's action in dismissing him.*

legally /'liːgəli/ *adverb* according to the law □ **the contract is legally binding** according to the law, the contract has to be obeyed □ **the directors are legally responsible** the law says that the directors are responsible

legal memory /ˌliːg(ə)l 'mem(ə)ri/ *noun* the period since 1189, the accepted date to which legal title can be traced ○ *This practice has existed from before the time of legal memory.* ◊ **immemorial existence**

legal person /ˌliːg(ə)l 'pɜːs(ə)n/ *noun* a company or corporation considered as a legal body

legal personality /ˌliːg(ə)l ˌpɜːsə 'nælətɪ/ *noun* existence as a body and so ability to be affected by the law

legal proceedings /'liːg(ə)l prə ˌsiːdɪŋz/ *plural noun* a legal action ○ *The court proceedings were adjourned.*

legal representative /ˌliːg(ə)l ˌreprɪ 'zentətɪv/ *noun* a barrister, solicitor, or legal executive, who acts on behalf of a party in a case

legal right /'liːg(ə)l raɪt/ *noun* a right which exists under law

legal secretary /ˌliːg(ə)l 'sekrət(ə)ri/ *noun* a secretary in a firm of solicitors or the legal department of a company

legal separation /ˌliːg(ə)l ˌsepə 'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* same as **judicial separation**

Legal Services Commission /ˌliːg(ə)l ˌsɜːvɪsɪz kə'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a body set up to run the Community Legal Service and the Criminal Defence Service. Abbreviation **LSC**. Former name **Legal Aid**

legal status /'liːg(ə)l ˌsteɪtəs/ *noun* a legal identity of a person or body such as a company or partnership

legal tender /ˌliːg(ə)l 'tendə/ *noun* coins or notes which can be legally used to pay a debt (NOTE: Small denominations cannot be used to pay large debts.)

legal writer /ˌliːg(ə)l 'raɪtə/ *noun* somebody who writes and publishes commentaries on legal problems

legatee /ˌlegə'tiː/ *noun* somebody who receives a legacy from someone who has died

legis ➧ **corpus legis, ratio legis**

legislate /'ledʒɪsleɪt/ *verb* to make a law ○ *Parliament has legislated against the sale of drugs* or *to prevent the sale of drugs.*

legislation /ˌledʒɪ'sleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the set of laws that have been agreed by Parliament and are implemented by the courts

legislative /'ledʒɪslətɪv/ *adjective* used to make laws ○ *Parliament has a legislative function.*

legislative initiative /ˌledʒɪslətɪv ɪ 'nɪʃətɪv/ *noun* the power to propose legislation ○ *Member States of the EU have the right of initiative in all legal and internal matters.*

legislative veto /ˌledʒɪslətɪv 'viːtəʊ/ *noun* a clause written into legislation relating to government agencies, which states that the agency cannot act in a way that the US Congress does not approve

legislator /'ledʒɪsleɪtə/ *noun* a person who makes or passes laws as a member of a national or other legislative body

legislature /'ledʒɪslətʃə/ *noun* **1.** the part of a national or other government which makes or changes laws ○ *Members of the legislature voted against the proposal.* (NOTE: The other parts are the **executive** and the **judiciary**.) **2.** the building where a Parliament meets ○ *The protesters marched towards the State Legislature.*

legitimacy /lɪ'dʒɪtɪməsi/ *noun* **1.** the state of being legitimate ○ *The court doubted the legitimacy of his claim.* **2.** a court case to make someone legitimate

legitimate *adjective* /lɪ'dʒɪtɪmət/ **1.** allowed by law ○ *He has a legitimate claim to the property.* **2.** born to parents who are married to each other ○ *He left his property to his legitimate offspring.* ◊ **illegitimate** ■ *verb* /lɪ'dʒɪtɪmeɪt/ to make a child legitimate

legitimate expectations /lɪ ˌdʒɪtɪmət ˌekspek'teɪʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* expectations of an employee which are usual and what one might expect employees to have

legitimation /lɪˌdʒɪtɪ'meɪʃ(ə)n/, **legitimisation** /lɪˌdʒɪtɪmaɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of making a child legitimate, e.g. by the marriage of the parents

lend /lend/ *verb* to allow someone to use something for a period ○ *to lend something to someone* or *to lend someone something* ○ *He lent the company money* or *he lent money to the company.* ○ *She lent the company car to her daughter.* ○ *The bank lent him £50,000 to start his business.*

lender /'lendə/ *noun* somebody who lends money

lender of the last resort /ˌlendə əv ðɪ lɑːst rɪ'zɔːt/ *noun* a central bank which lends money to commercial banks

lending /'lendɪŋ/ *noun* the act of letting someone use money for a time

lending limit /'lendɪŋ ˌlɪmɪt/ *noun* a limit on the amount of money a bank can lend

lessee /le'siː/ *noun* a person who pays rent for a property he or she leases from a lessor

lessor /le'sɔː/ *noun* somebody who grants a lease on a property to a lessee

let /let/ *verb* **1.** to allow someone to do something ○ *The magistrate let the prisoner speak to his wife.* **2.** to lend a property such as house, office, farm to someone for a payment □ **to let an office** to allow someone to use an office for a time in return for payment of rent □ **offices to let** offices which are available to be leased by companies ■ *noun* **1.** a period of the lease of a property ○ *They took the office on a short let.* **2.** □ **without let or hindrance** without any obstruction

let-out clause /'let aʊt ˌklɔːz/ *noun* a clause which allows someone to avoid doing something in a contract ○ *He added a let-out clause to the effect that the payments would be revised if the exchange rate fell by more than 5%.*

letter /'letə/ *noun* **1.** a piece of writing sent from one person or company to another to give information **2.** □ **air letter** special thin blue paper which when folded can be sent by air without an envelope □ **airmail letter** letter sent by air **3.** □ **to acknowledge receipt by letter** to write a letter to say that something has been received **4.** a written or printed symbol such as A, B, C ○ *Write your name and address in block letters* or *in capital letters.*

letter before action /ˌletə bɪˌfɔː 'ækʃən/ *noun* a letter written by a lawyer to give a party the chance to pay the client before he or she sues

letter of acknowledgement /ˌletər əv ək'nɒlɪdʒmənt/ *noun* a letter which says that something has been received

letter of allotment /ˌletər əv ə 'lɒtmənt/ *noun* a letter which tells someone how many shares in a new company he or she has been allotted

letter of application /ˌletər əv æplɪ 'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a letter in which someone applies for a job or applies for shares in a new company

letter of appointment /ˌletər əv ə 'pɔɪntmənt/ *noun* a letter in which someone is appointed to a job

letter of attorney /ˌletər əv ə'tɜːni/ *noun* a document showing that someone has power of attorney

letter of comfort /ˌletər əv 'kʌmfət/ *noun* a letter supporting someone who is trying to get a loan

letter of complaint /ˌletər əv kəm 'pleɪnt/ *noun* a letter in which someone complains

letter of credit /ˌletə əv 'kredɪt/ *noun* a letter from a bank authorising payment of a specific sum to a person or company, usually in another country. Abbreviation **L/C**

letter of demand /ˌletə əv dɪ'mɑːnd/ *noun US* a letter issued by a party or lawyer demanding payment before taking legal action

letter of indemnity /ˌletər əv ɪn 'demnɪti/ *noun* a letter promising payment of compensation for a loss

letter of intent /ˌletər əv ɪn'tent/ *noun* a letter which states what someone intends to do if a specific thing takes place

letter of reference /ˌletər əv 'ref(ə)rəns/ *noun* a letter in which an employer or former employer recommends someone for a new job

letter of renunciation /ˌletər əv rɪ ˌnʌnsi'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a form sent with new shares, which allows the person who has been allotted the shares to refuse to accept them and so sell them to someone else

letter of request /ˌletə əv rɪ'kwest/ *noun* a letter to a court in another country, asking for evidence to be taken from someone under that court's jurisdiction

letters of administration /ˌletəz əv ədmɪnɪ'streɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a document given by a court to allow someone to deal with the estate of a person who has died without leaving a will or where the exec-

utor appointed under the will cannot act (NOTE: not used in the singular)

letters patent /ˌletəz 'peɪtənt/ *plural noun* an official document from the Crown, which gives someone the exclusive right to do something such as becoming a lord or making and selling an invention

letting agency /'letɪŋ ˌeɪdʒənsi/ *noun* an agency which deals in property to let

levy /'levi/ *noun* a type of tax which is collected by the government or an official body ■ *verb* to demand payment of a tax or an extra payment and to collect it ○ *to levy a duty on the import of computer parts* ○ *The government has decided to levy a tax on imported cars.*

lex /leks/ *noun* a Latin word meaning 'law'

lex fori /ˌleks 'fɔːri/ *noun* the law of the place where the case is being heard

lex loci actus /ˌleks ˌləʊkaɪ 'æktəs/ *noun* the law of the place where the act took place

lex loci contractus /ˌleks ˌləʊkaɪ kən'træktəs/ *noun* the law of the place where the contract was made

lex loci delicti /ˌleks ˌləʊkaɪ dɪ 'lektaɪ/ *noun* the law of the place where the crime was committed

liabilities /ˌlaɪə'bɪlɪtiz/ *plural noun* debts of a business ○ *The balance sheet shows the company's assets and liabilities.*

liability /ˌlaɪə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* **1.** the fact of being legally responsible for paying for damage or loss incurred ○ *His insurers have admitted liability but the amount of damages has not yet been agreed.* □ **to accept, to admit liability for something** to agree that you are responsible for something □ **to refuse liability for something** to refuse to agree that you are responsible for something **2.** □ **he was not able to meet his liabilities** he could not pay his debts □ **to discharge one's liabilities in full** to repay all debts

liability clause /ˌlaɪə'bɪlɪti klɔːz/ *noun* a clause in the articles of association of a company which states that the liability of its members is limited

liable /'laɪəb(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** legally responsible for something ○ *The customer is liable for breakages.* ○ *The chairman was personally liable for the company's debts.* ○ *He was found by the judge to be liable for the accident.* ○ *He will be found liable if he assists a trustee to commit a dishonest breach of trust.* **2.** officially due to pay or do something ○ *sales which are liable to stamp duty* ○ *Such an action renders him liable to a fine.*

libel /'laɪb(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** a published or broadcast statement which damages someone's character ○ *She claimed that the newspaper report was a libel.* **2.** the act of making a libel □ **action for libel, libel action** case in a law court where someone says that another person has written a libel about him ■ *verb* to damage someone's character in writing or in a broadcast (NOTE: **libelling – libelled**. The US spelling is **libeling – libeled**.)

libeller /'laɪb(ə)lə/ *noun* somebody who has libelled someone

libellous /'laɪbələs/ *adjective* casting a slur on someone's character ○ *She said that the report was libellous.*

liberty /'lɪbəti/ *noun* the situation of being free □ **at liberty** free, not in prison ○ *They are still at liberty while waiting for charges to be brought.* □ **liberty of the individual** freedom for each person to act within the law □ **liberty of the press** freedom of newspapers to publish what they want within the law without censorship □ **liberty of the subject** the right of a citizen to be free unless convicted of a crime which is punishable by imprisonment

licence /'laɪs(ə)ns/, **license** *US* /'laɪs(ə)ns/ *noun* **1.** an official document which allows someone to do something or to use something ○ *He granted his neighbour a licence to use his field.* □ **licence to sell liquor, liquor licence** document given by the Magistrates' Court allowing someone to sell alcohol □ **on licence** a licence to sell alcohol for drinking on the premises, usually in a bar or restaurant **2.** permission given by someone to another person to do something which would otherwise be illegal **3.** permission for someone to leave prison be-

fore the end of his or her sentence **4.** □ **goods manufactured under licence** goods made with the permission of the owner of the copyright or patent

license /'laɪs(ə)ns/ *noun* US spelling of **licence** ■ *verb* to give someone official permission to do something ○ *licensed to sell beers, wines and spirits* ○ *to license a company to produce spare parts* ○ *He is licensed to drive a lorry.* ○ *She is licensed to run an employment agency.*

licensed deposit-taker /ˌlaɪs(ə)nst dɪ'pɒzɪt ˌteɪkə/ *noun* a business such as a bank which takes deposits from individuals and lends the money to others

licensed premises /ˌlaɪs(ə)nst 'premɪsɪz/ *plural noun* a pub, restaurant, bar or shop which has a licence to sell alcohol

licensee /ˌlaɪs(ə)n'siː/ *noun* a person who has a licence allowing them to carry out an activity such as selling alcohol or manufacturing or extracting something

licensing /'laɪs(ə)nsɪŋ/ *adjective* relating to licences

licensing agreement /'laɪs(ə)nsɪŋ əˌgriːmənt/ *noun* an agreement where a person is granted a licence to manufacture or use something

licensing hours /'laɪs(ə)nsɪŋ ˌaʊəz/ *plural noun* hours of the day where alcohol can be bought to be drunk on the premises

licensing magistrates /ˌlaɪs(ə)nsɪŋ 'mædʒɪstreɪts/ *plural noun* magistrates who grant licences to persons or premises for the sale of alcohol

licit /'lɪsɪt/ *adjective* legal

lie /laɪ/ *noun* a statement which is not true

lie detector /'laɪ dɪˌtektə/ *noun* a machine which detects if a person is telling the truth

lien /'liːən/ *noun* the legal right to hold someone's goods and keep them until a debt has been paid ○ *The garage had a lien on her car until she paid the repair bill.*

lien on shares /ˌliːən ɒn 'ʃeəz/ *noun* a right of a company to sell shares which have not been fully paid up, when the shareholder refuses to pay for them fully

lieu /ljuː/ *noun* □ **in lieu of** instead of □ **to give someone two months' salary in lieu of notice** to give an employee money equivalent to the salary for two months' work and ask him to leave immediately

lie upon the table /laɪ ʌˌpɒn ðə 'teɪb(ə)l/ *verb* (*of a petition*) to have been put before the House of Commons

COMMENT: After a petition has been presented by an MP it is said to 'lie upon the table'.

life /laɪf/ *noun* **1.** the time when a person is alive □ **for life** for as long as someone is alive ○ *His pension gives him a comfortable income for life.* □ **the life assured**, **the life insured** the person whose life has been covered by the life assurance **2.** the period of time when something is in existence ○ *the life of a loan* ○ *during the life of the agreement* □ **shelf life of a product** length of time when a product can stay in the shop and still be good to use

life annuity /'laɪf əˌnjuːɪti/ *noun* annual payments made to someone for the rest of their life

life assurance /'laɪf əˌʃʊərəns/ *noun* insurance which pays a sum of money when someone dies, or at a specified date if the person is still alive

life imprisonment /ˌlaɪf ɪm 'prɪz(ə)nmənt/ *noun* the punishment of being sent to prison for a serious crime, but not necessarily for the whole of your life (NOTE: As a penalty for murder, life imprisonment lasts on average ten years in the UK)

life insurance /'laɪf ɪnˌʃʊərəns/ *noun* same as **life assurance**

life interest /ˌlaɪf 'ɪntrəst/ *noun* a situation where someone benefits from a property as long as he or she is alive

life peer /'laɪf pɪə/ *noun* a member of the House of Lords who is appointed for life and whose title does not pass to another member of the family

life preserver /'laɪf prɪˌzɜːvə/ *noun* a heavy club or cosh

lifer /'laɪfə/ *noun* somebody serving a life sentence (*slang*)

LIFO *abbreviation* last in first out

lift /lɪft/ *verb* **1.** to take away or to remove ○ *The government has lifted the ban on imports of technical equipment.* ○ *The minister has lifted the embargo on the export of firearms.* ○ *Proceedings will continue when the stay is lifted.* **2.** to steal (*informal*)

lightning factor /ˌlaɪtnɪŋ 'fæktə/ *noun* the possibility that even a good case may fail for an unexpected reason, which is one of the factors to be taken into account when preparing a conditional fee agreement (*informal*)

likelihood /'laɪklihʊd/ *noun* the fact of being likely

likelihood of bias /ˌlaɪklihʊd əv 'baɪəs/ *noun* the possibility that bias will occur because of a connection between a member of the court and a party in the case

limit /'lɪmɪt/ *noun* a point at which something ends □ **to set limits to imports**, **to impose limits on imports** to allow only a specific amount of goods to be imported □ **he has exceeded his credit limit** he has borrowed more money than he is allowed to do ■ *verb* to stop something from going beyond a specific point ○ *The court limited damages to £100.* □ **the banks have limited their credit** the banks have allowed their customers only a limited amount of credit

limitation /ˌlɪmɪ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of allowing only a limited amount of something ○ *The contract imposes limitations on the number of cars which can be imported.*

limitation of actions /ˌlɪmɪteɪʃ(ə)n əv 'ækʃ(ə)nz/ *noun* a law which allows only a specific amount of time, usually six years, for someone to start legal proceedings in order to claim property or compensation for damage

limitation of liability /ˌlɪmɪteɪʃ(ə)n əv ˌlaɪə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* **1.** making someone liable for only a part of the damage or loss **2.** making shareholders in a limited company liable for the debts of the company only in proportion to their shareholding

limitation period /ˌlɪmɪ'teɪʃ(ə)n ˌpɪəriəd/ *noun* a period during which someone who has a right to claim against another person must start court proceedings. If the claim is not made in time, this may be used as a defence argument.

limited /'lɪmɪtɪd/ *adjective* restricted

limited liability /ˌlɪmɪtɪd laɪə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the legal principle that individual members of limited liability company are liable for that company's debts only to the value of their shares

limited liability company /ˌlɪmɪtɪd laɪəˌbɪlɪti 'kʌmp(ə)ni/ *noun* a company where each shareholder is responsible for repaying the company's debts only to the face value of the shares he or she owns

limited market /ˌlɪmɪtɪd 'mɑːkɪt/ *noun* a market which can take only a specific quantity of goods

limited partner /ˌlɪmɪtɪd 'pɑːtnə/ *noun* a partner who has only limited liability for the partnership debts

limited partnership /ˌlɪmɪtɪd 'pɑːtnəʃɪp/ *noun* a partnership where the liability of some of the partners is limited to the amount of capital they have each provided to the business while other working partners are fully liable for all the obligations of the partnership. These partners with limited liability may not take part in the running of the business.

limited warranty /ˌlɪmɪtɪd 'wɒrəntɪ/ *noun* a warranty which is limited in some way such as being valid only for a specific period of time or under special conditions of use

limiting /'lɪmɪtɪŋ/ *adjective* restricting ○ *a limiting clause in a contract* ○ *The short holiday season is a limiting factor on the hotel trade.*

Lincoln's Inn /ˌlɪnkənz 'ɪn/ *noun* one of the four Inns of Court in London

lineal descent /ˌlɪniəl dɪ'sent/ *noun* direct descent from parent to child

line management /'laɪn ˌmænɪdʒmənt/ *noun* a type of business organisation where each manager is directly responsible for a stage in the operation of the business

liquid assets /ˌlɪkwɪd 'æsets/ *noun* cash, or bills which can be quickly converted into cash

liquidate /'lɪkwɪdeɪt/ *verb* □ **to liquidate a company** to wind up a company, to close down a company and sell its as-

sets □ **to liquidate a debt** to pay a debt in full □ **to liquidate assets**, **stock** to sell assets or stock to raise cash

liquidated damages /ˌlɪkwɪdeɪtɪd 'dæmɪdʒɪz/ *plural noun* specific amount which has been calculated as the loss suffered

liquidation /ˌlɪkwɪ'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** □ **liquidation of a debt** payment of a debt in full **2.** the closing of a company and selling of its assets □ **the company went into liquidation** the company was closed and its assets sold

liquidator /'lɪkwɪdeɪtə/ *noun* somebody who administers the assets and supervises the winding up of a company

liquidity /lɪ'kwɪdɪti/ *noun* the situation of having cash or assets which can easily be sold to raise cash ○ *The company was going through a liquidity crisis and had to stop payments.*

lis /lɪs/ *noun* a Latin word meaning 'lawsuit'

lis alibi pendens /ˌlɪs ˌælɪbaɪ 'pendenz/ *noun* a legal action has been started in another place

lis pendens /ˌlɪs 'pendenz/ *noun* pending suit

list /lɪst/ *noun* **1.** a set of several items written one after the other ○ *list of debtors* ○ *to add an item to a list* ○ *to cross someone's name off a list* ○ *list of cases to be heard* **2.** a particular court to which cases are allocated according to their subject **3.** a catalogue ■ *verb* **1.** to write a series of items one after the other ○ *The catalogue lists products by category.* **2.** to decide on the date at which a case will be heard ○ *The case is listed to be heard next week.*

listed building /ˌlɪstɪd 'bɪldɪŋ/ *noun* a building of special interest, often because it is old, which the owners cannot alter or demolish

listing /'lɪstɪŋ/ *noun* the action of scheduling a case to be heard on a specific date

listing hearing /ˌlɪstɪŋ 'hɪərɪŋ/ *noun* a hearing which may be held at which a court decides on the date at which a case will be heard

listing questionnaire /ˌlɪstɪŋ k(w)estʃə'neə/ *noun* a questionnaire sent by a court to the parties in a case allocated to the fast track, in which they must give details of things such as documents, witnesses, expert evidence. The questionnaire has to be filed with the court within 14 days and is used by the court to decide on scheduling the date when the case will be heard.

list of documents /lɪst əv 'dɒkjʊˌments/ *noun* a list prepared by parties in a civil action giving disclosure of documents relevant to the action

list of members /ˌlɪst əv 'membəz/ *noun* an annual return made by a company listing its shareholders

litem ◗ **ad litem**

literal rule /'lɪt(ə)rəl ruːl/ *noun* a rule that, when interpreting a statute, the court should give the words of the statute their most obvious meaning

litigant /'lɪtɪgənt/ *noun* somebody who brings a lawsuit against someone

litigant in person /ˌlɪtɪgənt ɪn 'pɜːs(ə)n/ *noun* a person bringing a lawsuit who also speaks on his or her own behalf in court without the help of a lawyer

litigate /'lɪtɪgeɪt/ *verb* to bring a lawsuit against someone to have a dispute settled

litigation /ˌlɪtɪ'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the action of bringing a lawsuit against someone to have a dispute settled ○ *He has got into litigation with the county council.*

litigation friend /ˌlɪtɪ'geɪʃ(ə)n frend/ *noun* somebody who represents a child or patient in court, and whose duty is to act in the best interests of the child or patient

litigation practitioner /ˌlɪtɪ 'geɪʃ(ə)n prækˌtɪʃ(ə)nə/ *noun* a lawyer who specialises in litigation

litigious /lɪ'tɪdʒəs/ *adjective* very willing to bring a lawsuit against someone to settle a disagreement

living off immoral earnings /ˌlɪvɪŋ ɒf ɪˌmɒrəl 'ɜːnɪŋz/ *noun* the offence of making a living from money obtained from prostitutes

LJ *abbreviation* Lord Justice (NOTE: written after the surname of the judge in legal reports: *Smith LJ said he was not laying down any guidelines for sentenc-*

ing but **Smith LJ** is spoken as 'Lord Justice Smith'.)

LJJ *abbreviation* lord justices

LL.B., LL.M., LL.D. *abbreviation* letters written after someone's name, showing that he or she has the degree of Bachelor of Laws, Master of Laws or Doctor of Laws

Lloyd's /lɔɪdz/ *noun* a central London market for underwriting insurances □ **ship which is A1 at Lloyd's** ship which is in best condition according to Lloyd's Register

Lloyd's Register /ˌlɔɪdz 'redʒɪstə/ *noun* a classified list showing details of all the ships in the world

Lloyd's underwriter /ˌlɔɪdz 'ʌndəraɪtə/ *noun* a member of an insurance group at Lloyd's who accepts to underwrite insurances

loan /ləʊn/ *noun* money that has been lent □ **short-term loan**, **long-term loan** loans which have to be repaid within a few weeks or some years ■ *verb* to lend

loan stock /'ləʊn stɒk/ *noun* money lent to a company at a fixed rate of interest

lobby /'lɒbi/ *noun* a group of people or pressure group which tries to influence MPs or the passage of legislation □ **the car lobby** people who try to persuade government that cars should be encouraged and not restricted □ **the environmentalist lobby** people who try to persuade government that the environment must be protected, pollution stopped, etc.

lobbyist /'lɒbiɪst/ *noun* somebody who is paid to represent a pressure group

local call /ˌləʊk(ə)l 'kɔːl/ *noun* a call to a number on the same exchange

local court /'ləʊk(ə)l kɔːt/ *noun* a court such as a magistrates' court which hears cases coming from its local area

local custom /ˌləʊk(ə)l 'kʌstəm/ *noun* the way in which things are usually done in a particular place

loc. cit. *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'in the place which has been mentioned' (NOTE: used when referring to a point in a legal text: '**see also Smith J in** *Jones v. Associated Steel Ltd* **loc. cit. line 26**')

locking up /ˌlɒkɪŋ 'ʌp/ *noun* □ **the locking up of money in stock** investing money in stock so that it cannot be used for other, possibly more profitable, investments

lock up /ˌlɒk 'ʌp/ *verb* **1.** to put someone in prison or a psychiatric hospital **2.** □ **to lock up a shop**, **an office** to close and lock the door at the end of the day's work □ **to lock up capital** to have capital invested in such a way that it cannot be used for other investments

lock-up /'lɒk ʌp/ *adjective* □ **lock-up shop** shop which has no living accommodation which the proprietor locks at night when it is closed ■ *noun* a prison (*informal*)

loco ➧ **in loco parentis**

locum /'ləʊkəm/, **locum tenens** /ˌləʊkəm 'tenənz/ *noun* somebody who takes the place of another person for a time ○ *locums wanted in South London*

locus /'ləʊkəs/ *noun* a Latin word meaning 'place'

locus sigilli /ˌləʊkəs sɪ'dʒɪlaɪ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'place of the seal': used to show where to put the seal on a document

locus standi /ˌləʊkəs 'stændaɪ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'place to stand': the right to be heard in a court ○ *The taxpayer does not have locus standi in this court.*

lodge /lɒdʒ/ *verb* to deposit something such as a document officially □ **to lodge caution** to deposit a document with the Land Registry which prevents land or property being sold without notice □ **to lodge a complaint against someone** to make an official complaint about someone □ **to lodge money with someone** to deposit money with someone □ **to lodge securities as collateral** to put securities into a bank to be used as collateral for a loan

lodger /'lɒdʒə/ *noun* somebody who lives in a house or part of a house which is owned by a resident landlord

logrolling /'lɒgrəʊlɪŋ/ *noun US* the act of attaching a bill to another more popular bill before Congress in the hope that the two will be passed together

loitering with intent /ˌlɔɪtərɪŋ wɪð ɪn'tent/ *noun* the offence of walking slowly, stopping frequently, especially to solicit sexual relations

London gold fixing /ˌlʌndən 'gəʊld ˌfɪksɪŋ/ *noun* a system where the world price for gold is set each day in London

long credit /ˌlɒŋ 'kredɪt/ *noun* credit terms which allow the borrower a long time to pay

long-dated bills /ˌlɒŋ ˌdeɪtɪd 'bɪlz/ *plural noun* bills of exchange which are payable in more than three months' time

long-distance call /ˌlɒŋ dɪstəns 'kɔːl/ *noun* a call to a number in a different zone or area

long lease /ˌlɒŋ 'liːs/ *noun* a lease which runs for fifty years or more ○ *to take an office building on a long lease*

longs /lɒŋz/ *plural noun* government stocks which mature in over fifteen years' time

long-standing customer /lɒŋ ˌstændɪŋ 'kʌstəmə/ *noun* somebody who has been a customer for many years

long tenancy /ˌlɒŋ 'tenənsi/ *noun* tenancy for a period of more than 21 years

long-term /ˌlɒŋ 'tɜːm/ *adjective* □ **on a long-term basis** for a long period of time

long-term debts /ˌlɒŋ tɜːm 'dets/ *plural noun* debts which will be repaid many years later

long-term forecast /ˌlɒŋ tɜːm 'fɔːkɑːst/ *noun* a forecast for a period of over three years

long-term liabilities /ˌlɒŋ tɜːm ˌlaɪə 'bɪlɪtiz/ *plural noun* debts which are not due to be repaid for some years

long-term loan /ˌlɒŋ tɜːm 'ləʊn/ *noun* a loan to be repaid many years later

long-term objective /ˌlɒŋ tɜːm əb 'dʒektɪv/**, short-term objective** /ˌʃɔːt tɜːm əb'dʒektɪv/ *noun* an aim which you hope to achieve within a few years or a few months

long-term objectives /ˌlɒŋ tɜːm əb 'dʒektɪvz/ *plural noun* aims which will take years to fulfil

Long Vacation /ˌlɒŋ və'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the summer holiday of the law courts and universities

loophole /'luːphəʊl/ *noun* □ **to find a loophole in the law** to find a means of doing what you want to do, by finding a way of getting round a law which otherwise would prevent you from acting □ **to find a tax loophole** to find a means of legally not paying tax

loot /luːt/ *noun* stolen money or goods ■ *verb* to steal goods from shops, warehouses or homes during a period of unrest, disaster or lack of government control ○ *The stores were looted by a mob of hooligans.*

looter /'luːtə/ *noun* a person who steals valuables from shops, warehouses or homes during a period of unrest, disaster or lack of government control

looting /'luːtɪŋ/ *noun* the act of stealing valuable goods ○ *The police cordoned off the area to prevent looting.*

Lord Advocate /ˌlɔːd 'ædvəkət/ *noun* a member of the government who is one of the two Law Officers in Scotland

Lord Chancellor /ˌlɔːd 'tʃɑːnsələ/ *noun* the member of the British government and cabinet who is responsible for the administration of justice and the appointment of judges in England and Wales and who also presides over the debates in the House of Lords. The post is to be abolished and the role will be undertaken by the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs.

Lord Chief Justice /ˌlɔːd tʃiːf 'dʒʌstɪs/ *noun* the chief judge of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court who is also a member of the Court of Appeal

Lord Justice /ˌlɔːd 'dʒʌstɪs/ *noun* the title given to a judge who is a member of the House of Lords and the Court of Appeal (NOTE: It may be written abbreviated as **LJ**, or **LJJ** for the plural, after a surname: *Smith LJ* or *Jones and White LJJ.*)

Lord Justice Clerk /ˌlɔːd ˌdʒʌstɪs 'klɑːk/ *noun* the second most important judge in the Scottish High Court of Justiciary (NOTE: Lord Justice is written **LJ**

after the name: **Smith LJ =** Lord Justice Smith)

Lord Justice General /lɔːd ˌdʒʌstɪs 'dʒen(ə)rəl/ *noun* the chief judge in the Scottish High Court of Judiciary

Lord Lieutenant /ˌlɔːd lef'tenənt/ *noun* the representative of the Crown in a county

Lord of Appeal /ˌlɔːd əv ə'piːl/ *noun* a member of the House of Lords who sits when the House is acting as a Court of Appeal

Lord of Appeal in Ordinary /lɔːd əv əˌpiːl ɪn 'ɔːd(ə)n(ə)ri/ *noun* one of eleven lords who are paid to sit as members of the House of Lords when it acts as a Court of Appeal

Lord Ordinary /ˌlɔːd 'ɔːd(ə)n(ə)ri/ *noun* a judge of first instance in the outer house of the Scottish Court of Session

Lord President /ˌlɔːd 'prezɪdənt/ *noun* a judge of the Scottish Court of Session

Lord President of the Council /lɔːd ˌprezɪdənt əv ðə 'kaʊns(ə)l/ *noun* a senior member of the UK government, who is a member of the House of Lords and head of the Privy Council Office and has other duties allocated by the Prime Minister

Lords /lɔːdz/ *plural noun* **1.** the House of Lords ○ *The Lords voted to amend the Bill.* **2.** members of the House of Lords □ **the Law Lords** members of the House of Lords who are or were judges, and are entitled to sit on the Court of Appeal

lose /luːz/ *verb* **1.** not to be successful in a legal case ○ *He lost his appeal to the House of Lords.* ○ *She lost her case for compensation.* **2.** not to have something any more □ **to lose an order** not to get an order which you were hoping to get ○ *During the strike, the company lost six orders to American competitors.* □ **to lose control of a company** to find that you have less than 50% of the shares and so are no longer able to direct the company □ **she lost her job when the factory closed** she was made redundant **3.** to have less money ○ *He lost £25,000 in his father's computer company.* □ **the pound has lost value** the pound is worth less **4.** to drop to a lower price ○ *The dollar lost two cents against the pound.* ○ *Gold shares lost 5% on the market yesterday.* (NOTE: **losing – lost – has lost**)

loss /lɒs/ *noun* **1.** □ **the car was written off as a dead loss, a total loss** the car was so badly damaged that the insurers said it had no value **2.** □ **loss in weight** goods which weigh less than when they were packed □ **loss in transport** amount of weight which is lost while goods are being shipped

loss adjuster /'lɒs əˌdʒʌstə/ *noun* same as **average adjuster**

loss-leader /'lɒs ˌliːdə/ *noun* an article which is sold very cheaply to attract customers

lost profits /ˌlɒst 'prɒfɪts/ *plural noun* profits which would have been made from a transaction which is the subject of an action for breach of contract

Lower Chamber /ˌləʊə 'tʃeɪmbə/ *noun* the less important of the two houses in a bicameral system of government. Opposite **Upper Chamber** (NOTE: The opposite is **upper**.)

LSC *abbreviation* Legal Services Commission

lump sum /ˌlʌmp 'sʌm/ *noun* an amount of money that is paid in one single payment, not in several small amounts ○ *He received a lump sum payment of £500.* ○ *The company offer a lump sum of £1,000 as an out-of-court settlement.*

lynch /lɪntʃ/ *verb* to catch an accused person and kill him, usually by hanging, without a trial

lynch law /'lɪntʃ lɔː/ *noun* the killing of accused persons by a mob without a trial

M

mace-bearer /'meɪs ˌbeərə/ *noun* an official who carries a mace in procession

machine-readable codes /məˌʃiːn 'riːdəb(ə)l kəʊds/ *plural noun* sets of signs or letters such as bar codes or post codes which can be read by computers

machine shop /mə'ʃiːn ʃɒp/ *noun* a place where working machines are kept

Madam Chairman /ˌmædəm 'tʃeəmən/ *noun* a way of addressing a woman who is in the chair at the meeting

Mafia /'mæfiə/ *noun* any organised group of criminals ○ *the Russian drugs mafia*

magistrate /'mædʒɪstreɪt/ *noun* a usually unpaid official who tries cases in a police court

COMMENT: The Magistrates' Courts hear cases of petty crime, adoption, affiliation, maintenance and violence in the home; they hear almost all criminal cases. The court can commit someone for trial or for sentence in the Crown Court. A stipendiary magistrate is a qualified lawyer who usually sits alone; lay magistrates usually sit as a bench of three, and can only sit if there is a justices' clerk present to advise them.

magistrates' clerk /'mædʒɪstreɪts klɑːk/ *noun* an official of a magistrates' court who gives advice to the magistrates on law, practice or procedure

magistrates' court /'mædʒɪstreɪts kɔːt/ *noun* **1.** a building where magistrates try cases **2.** a court presided over by magistrates

magistrates' courts committee /ˌmædʒɪstreɪts ˌkɔːt kə'mɪti/ *noun* a committee which organises the administration of the courts in one or more petty sessions areas

mail-order selling /'meɪl ɔːdə ˌselɪŋ/ *noun* the activity of selling by taking orders and supplying a product by post

maintenance /'meɪntənəns/ *noun* **1.** the activity of keeping things going or working ○ *The maintenance of law and order is in the hands of the local police force.* **2.** a payment made by a divorced or separated husband or wife to the former spouse, to help pay for living expenses and the cost of bringing up the children **3.** formerly, the crime or tort of unlawfully providing someone with money to help that person to pay the costs of suing a third party

maintenance agreement /ˌmeɪntənəns ə'griːmənt/ *noun* an agreement drawn up between a married couple, detailing the financial arrangements which will be set up if they separate

maintenance contract /'meɪntənəns ˌkɒntrækt/ *noun* a contract by which a company keeps a piece of equipment in good working order

maintenance order /ˌmeɪntənəns 'ɔːdə/ *noun* a court order which orders a divorced or separated husband or wife to pay maintenance to the former spouse

maintenance pending suit /ˌmeɪntənəns 'pendɪŋ suːt/ *noun* maintenance obtained by a spouse in matrimonial proceedings until there is a full hearing to deal with the couple's financial affairs (NOTE: The US term is **alimony**.)

Majesty /'mædʒəsti/ *noun* the title given to a King or Queen ○ *His Majesty, the King* ○ *Their Majesties, the King and Queen* ○ *'Your Majesty, the Ambassador has arrived'* □ **on Her Majesty's Serv-**

ice (OHMS) words printed on official letters from government departments. ◊ **Her Majesty's pleasure**

majeure /mæˈʒɜː/ ◗ **force majeure**

majority /məˈdʒɒrɪti/ *noun* **1.** a larger group than any other □ **a majority of the jury** more than 50% of the jury □ **the board accepted the proposal by a majority of three to two** three members of the board voted to accept and two voted against □ **a majority shareholder** person who owns more than half the shares in a company **2.** the age at which someone becomes responsible for his actions and can sue, be sued or undertake business transactions

COMMENT: The age of majority in the UK and USA is eighteen.

majority verdict /məˌdʒɒrɪti ˈvɜːdɪkt/ *noun* a verdict reached by a jury where at least ten jurors vote for the verdict (NOTE: In US English **plurality** is used to indicate a majority over another candidate, and **majority** is used to indicate having more votes than all other candidates put together.)

major shareholder /ˌmeɪdʒə ˈʃeəhəʊldə/ *noun* a shareholder with a large number of shares

maladministration /ˌmælədˌmɪnɪ ˈstreɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* incompetent or illegal administration

mala in se /ˌmælə ɪn ˈseɪ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'wrongs in themselves': acts such as murder which are in themselves crimes

mala prohibita /ˌmælə prəʊˈhɪbɪtə/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'forbidden wrongs': acts such as walking on the grass in a park which are not crimes in themselves, but which are forbidden

malfeasance /mælˈfiːz(ə)ns/ *noun* an unlawful act

malice /ˈmælɪs/ *noun* the act of intentionally committing an act from wrong motives, or the intention to commit a crime □ **with malice aforethought** with the intention of committing a crime (especially murder)

malicious /məˈlɪʃəs/ *adjective* intending to cause harm

malicious damage /məˌlɪʃəs ˈdæmɪdʒ/ *noun* the deliberate and intentional harming of property

maliciously /məˈlɪʃəsli/ *adverb* in a malicious way, with the intention of causing harm ○ *He claimed that he had been prosecuted maliciously.*

malicious prosecution /məˌlɪʃəs ˌprɒsɪˈkjuːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the tort of charging someone with a crime out of malice and without proper reason

malicious wounding /məˌlɪʃəs ˈwuːndɪŋ/ *noun* the offence of inflicting grievous bodily harm on someone with the purpose of causing them injury

malpractice /mælˈpræktɪs/ *noun* (*referring to a lawyer, doctor, accountant or other professional person*) acting in an unprofessional or illegal way

managing clerk /ˈmænɪdʒɪŋ klɑːk/ *noun* a former term for a legal executive

mandamus /mænˈdeɪməs/ *Latin word meaning* 'we command': a court order from the Divisional Court of the Queen's Bench Division, ordering a body such as a lower court or tribunal to perform a legal duty ○ *The Chief Constable applied for an order of mandamus directing the justices to rehear the case.*

mandate *noun* /ˈmændeɪt/ the authority given to a person or persons to act on behalf of the person or persons giving the authority and carry out their wishes ○ *The government has a mandate from the people to carry out the plans put forward in its manifesto.* □ **to seek a new mandate** to try to be re-elected to a position ■ *verb* /mænˈdeɪt/ to give a person or persons the authority to carry out a specific action on behalf of another person or persons and according to their wishes ○ *The government has been mandated to revise the tax system.*

mandatory /ˈmændət(ə)ri/ *adjective* obligatory

mandatory injunction /ˌmændət(ə)ri ɪnˈdʒʌŋkʃən/ *noun* an order from a court which compels someone to do something

mandatory meeting /ˌmændət(ə)ri ˈmiːtɪŋ/ *noun* a meeting which must be held or which all members have to attend

manendi ◗ **animus manendi**

manifest /'mænɪfest/ *adjective* obvious ○ *a manifest injustice*

manipulate /mə'nɪpjʊˌleɪt/ *verb* □ **to manipulate the accounts** to make false accounts so that the company seems profitable □ **to manipulate the market** to work to influence share prices in your favour

manslaughter /'mænslɔːtə/ *noun* the notifiable offence of killing someone without having intended to do so, or of killing someone intentionally but with mitigating circumstances ○ *He was accused of manslaughter.* ○ *She was convicted of the manslaughter of her husband.*

manual labour /ˌmænjʊəl 'leɪbə/ *noun* work done by hand

manual labourer /ˌmænjʊəl 'leɪbərə/ *noun* somebody who does work with their hands

Mareva injunction /mə'reɪvə ɪn ˌdʒʌŋkʃ(ə)n/ *noun* formerly, a court order to freeze the assets of a person who has gone overseas or of a company based overseas to prevent them being taken out of the country (NOTE: Called after the case of *Mareva Compania Naviera SA v. International Bulk-Carriers SA*. Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has been replaced by **freezing injunction**.)

marine insurance /məˌriːn ɪn 'ʃʊərəns/ *noun* insurance of ships and their cargoes

marine underwriter /məˌriːn 'ʌndəraɪtə/ *noun* somebody who insures ships and their cargoes

marital /'mærɪt(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to a marriage

marital privileges /ˌmærɪt(ə)l 'prɪvəlɪdʒs/ *plural noun* privilege of a spouse not to give evidence against the other spouse in some criminal proceedings

marital rape /'mærɪt(ə)l reɪp/ *noun* the act of a husband forcing his wife to have sexual intercourse without her consent

maritime law /ˌmærɪtaɪm 'lɔː/ *noun* the set of laws referring to ships, ports, etc.

maritime lawyer /ˌmærɪtaɪm 'lɔːjə/ *noun* a lawyer who specialises in legal matters concerning ships and cargoes

maritime lien /ˌmærɪtaɪm 'liːən/ *noun* the right to seize a ship against an unpaid debt

maritime trade /ˌmærɪtaɪm 'treɪd/ *noun* the activity of carrying commercial goods by sea

mark /mɑːk/ *noun* a cross ('X') put on a document in place of a signature by someone who cannot write

market /'mɑːkɪt/ *noun* **1.** □ **to pay black market prices** to pay high prices to get items which are not easily available **2.** □ **a buyer's market** market where goods are sold cheaply because there is little demand □ **a seller's market** market where the seller can ask high prices because there is a large demand for the product **3.** □ **the foreign exchange markets** market where people buy and sell foreign currencies **4.** □ **to buy shares in the open market** to buy shares on the Stock Exchange, not privately

marketable title /ˌmɑːkɪtəb(ə)l 'taɪt(ə)l/ *noun* a title to a property which can be sold, i.e. it is free of major encumbrances

market capitalisation /ˌmɑːkɪt ˌkæpɪtəlaɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the value of a company calculated by multiplying the price of its shares on the Stock Exchange by the number of shares issued

market day /'mɑːkɪt deɪ/ *noun* the day when a market is regularly held

market dues /ˌmɑːkɪt 'djuːz/ *plural noun* rent for a place in a market

market overt /ˌmɑːkɪt əʊ'vɜːt/ *noun* a market in which a sale gives good title to a buyer, even though the seller's title may be defective

COMMENT: This was only applied to certain open-air antique markets, and has been abolished.

market price /'mɑːkɪt praɪs/ *noun* the price at which a product can be sold

market value /ˌmɑːkɪt 'væljuː/ *noun* the value of an asset, product or company, if sold today

marksman /'mɑːksmən/ *noun* **1.** somebody who can shoot a gun very accurately **2.** a person who cannot write

and who has to put an 'X' in place of a signature

mark up /ˌmɑːk 'ʌp/ *verb* □ **to mark up a bill** *US* to make changes to a bill as it goes through committee

marriage /'mærɪdʒ/ *noun* the act or state of being joined together as husband and wife □ **by marriage** because of being married ○ *She became a British citizen by marriage.*

marriage of convenience /ˌmærɪdʒ əv kən'viːniəns/ *noun* a form of marriage arranged for the purpose of acquiring the nationality of a spouse or for some other financial reason

marriage settlement /ˌmærɪdʒ 'set(ə)lmənt/ *noun* an agreement which is made before marriage where money or property is given on trust for the benefit of the future spouse

marshal /'mɑːʃ(ə)l/ *noun US* **1.** an official who carries out the orders of a court (NOTE: The British equivalent is a **bailiff**.) **2.** a federal officer with the same functions as a sheriff at state level

marshalling /'mɑːʃ(ə)lɪŋ/ *noun* the action of a beneficiary of an estate to recover money due to them which was paid to a creditor

Marshal of the Admiralty Court /ˌmɑːʃ(ə)l ɔv ðiː 'ædm(ə)rəlti ˌkɔːt/ *noun* an official in charge of the Admiralty Court

martial /'mɑːʃ(ə)l/ *adjective* relating to the armed services

martial law /ˌmɑːʃ(ə)l 'lɔː/ *noun* rule of a country or part of a country by the army on the orders of the government when ordinary civil law has been suspended ○ *The president imposed* or *declared martial law in two provinces.* ○ *The government lifted martial law.*

mass jailbreak /mæs 'dʒeɪlˌbreɪk/ *noun* the escape from prison of several prisoners at the same time

master /'mɑːstə/ *noun* **1.** an official in the Queen's Bench Division or Chancery Division of the High Court whose work is to examine and decide on preliminary matters before trial **2.** main or original □ **master copy of a file** main copy of a computer file, kept for security purposes

master and servant /ˌmɑːstər ən 'sɜːvənt/ *noun* employer and employee

Master of the Rolls /ˌmɑːstə əv ðə 'rəʊlz/ *noun* a senior judge who presides over the Civil Division of the Court of Appeal and is responsible for admitting solicitors to the Roll of Solicitors

Masters of the Bench /ˌmɑːstəz əv ðə 'bentʃ/ *plural noun* senior members of one of the Inns of Court

material /mə'tɪəriəl/ *adjective* important or relevant

material alteration /məˌtɪəriəl ˌɔːltə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a change made to a legal document which alters the rights or duties in it

material evidence /məˌtɪəriəl 'evɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* evidence which has important relevance to a case

material witness /məˌtɪəriəl 'wɪtnəs/ *noun* a witness whose evidence is important to the case

maternity leave /mə'tɜːnɪti liːv/ *noun* a period when a woman is away from work to have a baby

matricide /'mætrɪsaɪd/ *noun* the murder of your own mother

matrimonial /ˌmætrɪ'məʊniəl/ *adjective* referring to marriage

matrimonial causes /ˌmætrɪ 'məʊniəl kɔːzs/ *plural noun* proceedings concerned with rights of partners in a marriage, e.g. divorce or separation proceedings

matrimonial home /ˌmætrɪ 'məʊniəl həʊm/ *noun* the place where a husband and wife live together

matrimony /'mætrɪməni/ *noun* the state of being legally married

matter /'mætə/ *noun* **1.** a problem □ **it is a matter of concern to the members of the committee** the members of the committee are worried about it **2.** a question or problem to be discussed ○ *the most important matter on the agenda* ○ *We shall consider first the matter of last month's fall in prices.* ■ *verb* to be important ○ *Does it matter if one month's sales are down?*

matter of fact /ˌmætə əv 'fækt/ *noun* a question of fact which has to be decided

matters of fact /ˌmætəz əv 'fækt/ *plural noun* facts relevant to a case which is being tried at court

matters of law /ˌmætəz əv 'lɔː/ *noun* the law relevant to a case which is tried at court ○ *It is a matter of fact whether the parties entered into the contract, but it is a matter of law whether or not the contract is legal.*

mature /mə'tjʊə/ *verb* to be due for payment ○ *bill which will mature in three months*

maturity /mə'tjʊərɪti/ *noun* the time when a bill, government stock or insurance is due for payment

maxim /'mæksɪm/ *noun* a short phrase which formulates a principle, e.g. 'let the buyer beware'

maximum /'mæksɪməm/ *noun* the largest possible quantity, price or number ■ *adjective* largest possible ○ *the maximum penalty*

mayhem /'meɪhem/ *noun* **1.** a general riot or disturbance **2.** the violent removal of a person's arm or leg

mayoralty /'meər(ə)lti/ *noun* the position of a mayor ○ *the time for which someone is mayor*

McNaghten ◗ **M'Naghten Rules**

means /miːnz/ *plural noun* money which is available

measure /'meʒə/ *noun* **1.** a way of calculating size or quantity **2.** an action to achieve something, e.g. a law passed by Parliament or a statutory instrument ○ *a government measure to reduce crime in the inner cities* □ **to take measures to prevent something happening** to act to stop something happening □ **to take emergency measures** to act rapidly to stop a dangerous situation developing □ **an economy measure** action to try to save money or materials □ **as a precautionary measure** to prevent something taking place

measurement of profitability /ˌmeʒəmənt əv ˌprɒfɪtə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* a way of calculating how profitable something is

measure of damages /ˌmeʒə əv 'dæmɪdʒɪz/ *noun* a calculation of how much money a court should order one party to pay another to compensate for a tort or breach

mechanical reproduction rights /mɪˌkænɪk(ə)l ˌriːprə'dʌkʃ(ə)n ˌraɪts/ *plural noun* the rights to make a recording of a piece of music or a photocopy or other copy of something, usually for a fee

mechanic's lien /mɪˌkænɪks 'liːən/ ◗ **lien**

mediate /'miːdieɪt/ *verb* to try to make the two sides in an argument come to an agreement ○ *to mediate between the manager and his staff* ○ *The government offered to mediate in the dispute.*

mediation /ˌmiːdɪ'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an attempt by a third party to make the two sides in an argument agree ○ *The employers refused an offer of government mediation.* ○ *The dispute was ended through the mediation of a disinterested party.*

medical certificate /'medɪk(ə)l sə ˌtɪfɪkət/ *noun* a certificate from a doctor to show that an employee has been ill

medical inspection /'medɪk(ə)l ɪn ˌspekʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the examination of a place of work to see if the conditions are safe

medical officer of health /ˌmedɪk(ə)l ˌɒfɪsə əv 'helθ/ *noun* the person responsible for the health services in a town. Abbreviation **MOH**

medium-term /ˌmiːdiəm 'tɜːm/ *adjective* for a period of one or two years

meeting /'miːtɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the coming together of a group of people **2.** □ **to hold a meeting** to organise a meeting of a group of people ○ *The meeting will be held in the committee room.* □ **to open a meeting** to start a meeting □ **to conduct a meeting** to be in the chair for a meeting □ **to close a meeting** to end a meeting □ **to put a resolution to a meeting** to ask a meeting to vote on a proposal

member /'membə/ *noun* **1.** somebody who belongs to a group or a society **2.** an organisation which belongs to a society ○ *the member countries* or *the Member States of the EU* ○ *the members of the United Nations* ○ *the member firms of the Stock Exchange*

Member of the European Parliament /ˌmembə əv ðə ˌjʊərəpiːən

ˈpɑːləmənt/ *noun* a person elected to represent a Euro-constituency in the European Parliament. Abbreviation **MEP**

Member State /ˈmembə steɪt/ *noun* (*in the EU*) a state which is a member of the European Union

memorandum /meməˈrændəm/ *noun* a short note

memorandum of association /ˌmeməˈrændəm əv əˌsəʊsiˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a legal document setting up a limited company and giving details of its aims, capital structure, and registered office

memorandum of satisfaction /ˌmeməˈrændəm əv ˌsætɪsˈfækʃən/ *noun* a document showing that a company has repaid a mortgage or charge (NOTE: The plural is **memoranda**.)

menace /ˈmenɪs/ *noun* a threat or action which frightens someone □ **demanding money with menaces** crime of getting money by threatening another person

mens rea /ˌmens ˈreɪə/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'guilty mind': the mental state required to be guilty of committing a crime (intention, recklessness or guilty knowledge). See Comment at **crime**. Compare **actus reus**

mental /ˈment(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to the mind

mental cruelty /ˌment(ə)l ˈkruːəlti/ *noun US* cruelty by one spouse to the other, which may harm his or her mental state (NOTE: It is grounds for divorce in the USA.)

mental disorder /ˌment(ə)l dɪs ˈɔːdə/ *noun* a temporary or permanent change in a person's mental state which makes them function less effectively than they would usually

mentally /ˈment(ə)li/ *adverb* in the mind ○ *Mentally ill criminals are committed to special establishments.*

mention /ˈmenʃən/ *noun* a short hearing at court

mentis ♦ **compos mentis**

MEP *abbreviation* Member of the European Parliament

mercantile law /ˈmɜːkəntaɪl lɔː/ *noun* law relating to commerce

merchantable quality /ˌmɜːtʃəntəb(ə)l ˈkwɒlɪti/ *noun* a quality of goods for sale, which are suitable for the purpose for which they are to be used and conform to the description and price given fro them in the manufacturer's catalogue

merchant marine /ˌmɜːtʃənt mə ˈriːn/ *noun* all the commercial ships of a country

mercy /ˈmɜːsi/ *noun* the act of treating or punishing someone less severely than you could

mercy killing /ˈmɜːsi ˌkɪlɪŋ/ *noun* same as **euthanasia**

merge /mɜːdʒ/ *verb* to join together ○ *The two companies have merged.* ○ *The firm merged with its main competitor.*

merger /ˈmɜːdʒə/ *noun* **1.** the joining of a small estate to a large one ○ *As a result of the merger, the company is the largest in the field.* **2.** the joining together of two or more companies

merit award /ˈmerɪt əˌwɔːd/ *noun US* extra money given to an employee because he or she has worked well

merit increase /ˈmerɪt ˌɪnkriːs/ *noun US* an increase in pay given to someone because his or her work is good

merits of the case /ˌmerɪts əv ðə ˈkeɪs/ *plural noun* main question which is at issue in an action

mesne /miːn/ *adjective* in the middle □ **action for mesne profits** action to recover money that should be paid to a landowner in place of rent by a person who is in wrongful possession

mesne process /ˈmiːn ˌprəʊses/ *noun* a process in a legal action, which comes after the first writ but before the outcome of the action has been decided

messuage /ˈmeswɪdʒ/ *noun* a house where people live, and the land and buildings attached to it

metropolitan /ˌmetrəˈpɒlɪt(ə)n/ *adjective* referring to a large city

Metropolitan District Council /ˌmetrəpɒlɪt(ə)n ˌdɪstrɪkt ˈkaʊns(ə)l/ *noun* a large administrative area covering an urban area in England or Wales

Metropolitan Police /ˌmetrəpɒlɪt(ə)n pəˈliːs/ *noun* the po-

lice force of Greater London, which is directly responsible to the Home Secretary (NOTE: The higher ranks in the Metropolitan Police are Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, and Commissioner.) □ **solicitor for the Metropolitan Police** solicitor responsible for prosecutions brought by the Metropolitan Police

Metropolitan Police Commissioner /ˌmetrəpɒlɪt(ə)n pəˌliːs kə 'mɪʃ(ə)nə/ *noun* the head of the Metropolitan Police, appointed directly by the Home Secretary (NOTE: The other high ranks in the Metropolitan Police are Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Assistant Commissioner.)

Michaelmas /'mɪk(ə)lməs/ *noun* **1.** 29th September, one of the quarter days when rent is payable on land **2.** one of the four sittings of the law courts **3.** one of the four law terms

Middle Temple /ˌmɪd(ə)l 'temp(ə)l/ *noun* one of the four Inns of Court in London

Midland and Oxford Circuit /ˌmɪdlənd ənd 'ɒksfəd ˌsɜːkɪt/ *noun* in the UK, one of the six circuits of the Crown Court to which barristers belong, with its centre in Birmingham

Midsummer day /ˌmɪd'sʌmə deɪ/ *noun* 24th June, one of the four quarter days when rent is payable on land

militant /'mɪlɪtənt/ *noun* a person who uses extreme methods to actively support and work for a cause ■ *adjective* using extreme methods in supporting a cause

military police /ˌmɪlɪt(ə)ri pə'liːs/ *noun* soldiers who act as policemen to keep order among other soldiers

minder /'maɪndə/ *noun* a person employed as a bodyguard to protect someone (*slang*)

minimis ◗ **de minimis non curat lex**

minimum /'mɪnɪməm/ *noun* the smallest possible quantity, price or number ○ *to keep expenses to a minimum* ○ *to reduce the risk of a loss to a minimum* ■ *adjective* smallest possible

minimum payment /ˌmɪnɪməm 'peɪmənt/ *noun* the smallest payment necessary

minimum sentence /ˌmɪnɪməm 'sentəns/ *noun* the shortest possible sentence allowed in law for an offence

minimum wage /ˌmɪnɪməm 'weɪdʒ/ *noun* the lowest hourly wage that a company can legally pay its workers

mining concession /'maɪnɪŋ kən ˌseʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the right to dig a mine on a piece of land which you do not own

ministerial tribunal /ˌmɪnɪstɪəriəl traɪ'bjuːn(ə)l/ *noun* a tribunal set up by a government minister to hear appeals from local tribunals

Minister of State /ˌmɪnɪstə əv 'steɪt/ *noun* somebody who is in charge of a section of a government department

Minister without Portfolio /ˌmɪnɪstə wɪˌðaʊt pɔːt'fəʊliəʊ/ *noun* a minister who does not have responsibility for any particular department

Ministry of Defence /ˌmɪnɪstri əv dɪ'fens/ *noun* a government department in charge of the armed forces

Ministry of the Interior /ˌmɪnɪstri əv ðə ɪn'tɪəriə/ *noun* in some countries, a government department dealing with law and order, usually including the police

minor /'maɪnə/ *adjective* less important ○ *minor expenditure* ○ *minor shareholders* □ **a loss of minor importance** not a very serious loss ■ *noun* a person less than eighteen years old

minority /maɪ'nɒrɪti/ *noun* **1.** the state of being less than eighteen years old ○ *A person is not liable for debts contracted during minority.* **2.** a period during which someone is less than eighteen years old **3.** a number or quantity which is less than half of the total ○ *A minority of board members opposed the chairman.* □ **in the minority** being fewer than half ○ *The small parties are in the minority on the local council.*

minority shareholder /maɪˌnɒrəti 'ʃeəhəʊldə/ *noun* somebody who owns a group of shares but less than half of the shares in a company

minority shareholding /maɪˌnɒrəti 'ʃeəhəʊldɪŋ/ *noun* a group of shares which are less than one half of the shares in a company

minor official /ˌmaɪnə əˈfɪʃ(ə)l/ *noun* a person in a low position in a government department

minute /ˈmɪnɪt/ *noun* □ **to take the minutes** to write notes of what happened at a meeting □ **the chairman signed the minutes of the last meeting** he signed them to show that they were a correct record of what was said and what decisions were taken □ **this will not appear in the minutes of the meeting** this is unofficial and will not be noted as having been said ■ *verb* to put something into the minutes of a meeting ○ *The chairman's remarks about the auditors were minuted.* □ **I do not want that to be minuted, I want that not to be minuted** do not put that remark into the minutes of the meeting

minutebook /ˈmɪnɪtbɒk/ *noun* a book in which the minutes of a meeting are kept

minutes /ˈmɪnɪts/ *plural noun* the record of what was said at a meeting

minutes of order /ˌmɪnɪts əv ˈɔːdə/ *plural noun* a draft order submitted to a court when a party wishes the court to make an order

misadventure /ˌmɪsədˈventʃə/ *noun* an accident □ **death by misadventure** accidental death ○ *The coroner's verdict was death by misadventure.*

misappropriate /ˌmɪsəˈprəʊprieɪt/ *verb* to steal or use illegally money which is not yours, but with which you have been trusted

misappropriation /ˌmɪsəprəʊpriˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the illegal use of money by someone who is not the owner but who has been trusted to look after it

misbehaviour /mɪsbɪˈheɪvjə/ *noun* bad behaviour, especially a criminal offence committed by a public official

miscalculate /mɪsˈkælkjʊleɪt/ *verb* to calculate wrongly ○ *The salesperson miscalculated the discount, so we hardly broke even on the deal.*

miscalculation /mɪsˌkælkjʊˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a mistake in calculating

miscarriage of justice /ˌmɪskærɪdʒ əv ˈdʒʌstɪs/ *noun* **1.** a decision wrongly or unjustly reached by a court **2.** a decision which goes against the rights of a party in a case, in such a way that the decision may be reversed on appeal

mischief rule /ˈmɪstʃɪf ruːl/ *noun* the rule that when interpreting a statute, the court should try to see what the wrong was that the statute tried to remedy and what the remedy was that Parliament has enacted

misconduct /mɪsˈkɒndʌkt/ *noun* an illegal action which can harm someone

misdeed /mɪsˈdiːd/ *noun* a crime

misdemeanour /ˌmɪsdɪˈmiːnə/ *noun* a minor crime ○ *He was charged with several misdemeanours, including driving without a valid licence and creating a disturbance.* (NOTE: The US spelling is **misdemeanor**.)

misdescription /ˌmɪsdɪˈskrɪpʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a false or misleading description of the subject of a contract

misdirect /mɪsdaɪˈrekt/ *verb* to give wrong directions to a jury on a point of law

misdirection /ˌmɪsdɪˈrekʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the giving of wrong directions to a jury on a point of law

misfeasance /mɪsˈfiːz(ə)ns/ *noun* acting improperly or illegally in performing an action that is in itself lawful

misinterpret /ˌmɪsɪnˈtɜːprɪt/ *verb* to understand something wrongly ○ *The fire-fighters misinterpreted the instructions of the police.*

misinterpretation /ˌmɪsɪnˌtɜːprɪˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a wrong interpretation or understanding of something □ **clause which is open to misinterpretation** clause which can be wrongly interpreted

misjoinder /mɪsˈdʒɔɪndə/ *noun* wrongly joining someone as a party to an action

misprision /mɪsˈprɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* generally, the situation of knowing that a crime is being committed, but doing nothing about it

misprision of treason /mɪsˌprɪʒ(ə)n əv ˈtriːz(ə)n/ *noun* the crime of knowing that treason has been committed and not reporting it

misrepresent /ˌmɪsreprɪˈzent/ *verb* to report facts wrongly

misrepresentation /ˌmɪsˌreprɪzen'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of making a wrong statement with the intention of persuading someone to enter into a contract

mistake in venue /mɪˌsteɪk ɪn 'venjuː/ *noun* the starting of legal proceedings in the wrong court

mistaken identity /mɪˌsteɪkən aɪ 'dentɪti/ *noun* a situation where someone is wrongly thought to be another person ○ *He was arrested for burglary, but released after it had been established that it was a case of mistaken identity.*

mistrial /'mɪstraɪəl/ *noun* a trial which is not valid

misuse /mɪs'juːs/ *noun* wrong use ○ *misuse of funds or of assets*

mitigate /'mɪtɪgeɪt/ *verb* to make a crime or a punishment less serious

mitigating circumstances /ˌmɪtɪgeɪtɪŋ 'sɜːkəmstænsɪz/ *plural noun* things which make a crime less serious or which can excuse a crime

mitigation /ˌmɪtɪ'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a reduction of a sentence or of the seriousness of a crime ○ *In mitigation, counsel submitted evidence of his client's work for charity.* ○ *Defence counsel made a speech in mitigation.*

mitigation of damages /ˌmɪtɪgeɪʃ(ə)n əv 'dæmɪdʒɪz/ *noun* a reduction in the extent of damages awarded

mixed hereditaments /ˌmɪkst ˌherɪ 'dɪtəmənts/ *noun* properties which are used for both domestic and business purposes

M'Naghten Rules /məkˌnɔːtən 'ruːlz/ *noun* rules which a judge applies in deciding if a person charged with a crime is insane

COMMENT: To prove insanity, it has to be shown that because of a diseased mind, the accused did not know what he was doing or did not know that his action was wrong. Based on the case of *R v. M'Naghten* (1843) in which the House of Lords considered and ruled on the defence of insanity.

mob /mɒb/ *noun US* the Mafia

mobster /'mɒbstə/ *noun US* a member of an organised crime group

mock auction /ˌmɒk 'ɔːkʃən/ *noun* a sale where gifts are given to purchasers or where only some purchasers are allowed to make bids

modus operandi /ˌməʊdəs ɒpə 'rændiː/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'way of working': especially a particular way of committing crimes which can identify a criminal

modus vivendi /ˌməʊdəs vɪ'vendiː/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'way of living', an informal agreement between two or more parties such as employers and employees to exist peacefully together ○ *After years of confrontation, they finally have achieved a modus vivendi.*

MOH *abbreviation* medical officer of health

moiety /'mɔɪəti/ *noun* half

molest /mə'lest/ *verb* to threaten violent behaviour against a child or a woman, especially a spouse, in a sexual way ○ *He was accused of molesting children in the park.*

molestation /ˌməʊle'steɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of threatening violent behaviour towards a child or a woman, especially a spouse

molester /mə'lestə/ *noun* somebody who molests ○ *a convicted child molester*

money claim /'mʌni kleɪm/ *noun* a claim which involves the payment of money. e.g. a claim for repayment of a debt or a claim for damages.

moneylender /'mʌniˌlendə/ *noun* somebody who lends money at interest

money markets /ˌmʌni 'mɑːkɪts/ *plural noun* markets for buying and selling short-term loans

money order /'mʌni ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a document which can be bought for sending money through the post

monies /'mʌniz/ *plural noun* sums of money ○ *monies owing to the company* ○ *to collect monies due*

monogamy /mə'nɒgəmi/ *noun* a system of society where a person is allowed one spouse only. Compare **bigamy, polygamy**

Monopolies Commission, Monopolies and Mergers Commission *noun* a British body which examines

takeovers and mergers to make sure that a monopoly is not being created (NOTE: US English uses **trust** more often than **monopoly**.)

monopolisation /məˌnɒpəlaɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/, **monopolization** *noun* the process of making a monopoly

monopolise /mə'nɒpəlaɪz/ *verb* to get control of all the supply of a product

monopoly /mə'nɒpəli/ *noun* **1.** a situation where one person or company controls all the market in the supply of a product ○ *to have the monopoly of alcohol sales* or *to have the alcohol monopoly* ○ *The company has the absolute monopoly of imports of French wine.* **2.** the right given to one person or company to control all the market in the supply of a product

monopsony /mə'nɒpsəni/ *noun* a situation where one person or company controls all the purchasing in a market

Monroe doctrine /mʌn'rəʊ ˌdɒktrɪn/ *noun US* the principle that the USA has an interest in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of other American states

COMMENT: So called because it was first proposed by President Monroe in 1823.

moonlight /'muːnlaɪt/ *verb* to do a second job for cash, often in the evening, as well as a regular job, usually not declaring the money earned to the income tax authorities (*informal*)

moonlighter /'muːnlaɪtə/ *noun* somebody who moonlights

moonlighting /'muːnlaɪtɪŋ/ *noun* the activity of doing a second job without telling the tax authorities ○ *He makes thousands a year from moonlighting.*

moot /muːt/ *adjective* legally insignificant because of having already been decided or settled

moot case /ˌmuːt 'keɪs/ *noun* a legal case to be discussed on its own, to establish a precedent

moral /'mɒrəl/ *adjective* referring to the difference between what is right and what is wrong ○ *The high moral standard which should be set by judges.*

moral rights /ˌmɒrəl 'raɪts/ *noun* the rights of a copyright holder to be identified as the creator of the work, not to have the work subjected to derogatory treatment, and to prevent anyone else from claiming to be the author of the work. Also called **paternity**

morals /'mɒrəlz/ *plural noun* standards of behaviour □ **to corrupt someone's morals** to make someone willing to commit a crime or to act against usual standards of behaviour

moratorium /ˌmɒrə'tɔːriəm/ *noun* a temporary stop to repayments of money owed ○ *The banks called for a moratorium on payments.* (NOTE: The plural is **moratoria**.)

mortality tables /mɔː'tæləti ˌteɪb(ə)lz/ *plural noun* charts, used by insurers, that show how long a person can be expected to live, on average

mortem ◗ **post mortem**

mortgage /'mɔːgɪdʒ/ *noun* **1.** an agreement where someone lends money to another person so that he or she can buy a property, the property being used as the security ○ *to take out a mortgage on a house* **2.** money lent in this way ○ *to buy a house with a £20,000 mortgage* □ **to foreclose on a mortgaged property** to take possession of a property because the owner cannot pay the interest on the money which he or she has borrowed using the property as security □ **to pay off a mortgage** to pay back the principal and all the interest on a loan to buy a property ■ *verb* to accept a loan with a property as security ○ *The house is mortgaged to the bank.* ○ *He mortgaged his house to set up in business.*

mortgage bond /'mɔːgɪdʒ bɒnd/ *noun* a certificate showing that a mortgage exists and that the property is security for it

mortgage debenture /'mɔːgɪdʒ dɪ ˌbentʃə/ *noun* a debenture where the lender can be repaid by selling the company's property

mortgagee /mɔːgə'dʒiː/ *noun* a person or company which lends money for someone to buy a property and takes a mortgage of the property as security

mortgage payments /ˌmɔːgɪdʒ 'peɪmənts/, **mortgage repayments** /ˌmɔːgɪdʒ rɪ'peɪmənts/ *plural noun*

money paid each month as interest on a mortgage, together with repayment of a small part of the capital borrowed

mortgagor /'mɔːgɪdʒə/ *noun* somebody who borrows money, giving a property as security

mortis /'mɔːtɪs/ ◗ **donatio mortis causa, rigor mortis**

most favoured nation /məʊst ˌfeɪvəd 'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a country which has the best trade terms

most-favoured-nation clause /məʊst ˌfeɪvəd 'neɪʃ(ə)n klɔːz/ *noun* an agreement between two countries that each will offer the best possible terms in commercial contracts

Mother of Parliaments /ˌmʌðə əv 'pɑːləmənts/ *noun* the British Parliament at Westminster

motion /'məʊʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the action of moving **2.** a proposal which will be put to a meeting for that meeting to vote on ○ *to propose* or *to move a motion* ○ *to speak against* or *for a motion* ○ *The meeting voted on the motion.* □ **the motion was carried**, **was defeated by 220 votes to 196** the motion was approved *or* not approved **3.** an application to a judge in court, asking for an order in favour of the person making the application ◇ **to table a motion** *US* **1.** to put forward a proposal for discussion by putting details of it on the table at a meeting **2.** to remove a proposal from discussion by a meeting for an indefinite period

motion of censure /ˌməʊʃ(ə)n əv 'senʃə/ *noun* a proposal from the Opposition to pass a vote to criticise the government

movable /'muːvəb(ə)l/, **moveable** *adjective* being able to be moved

movable property /ˌmuːvəb(ə)l 'prɒpəti/ *noun* chattels and other objects which can be moved, as opposed to land

movables /'muːvəb(ə)lz/ *plural noun* same as **movable property**

move /muːv/ *verb* **1.** to go from one place to another ○ *The company is moving from London Road to the centre of town.* ○ *We have decided to move our factory to a site near the airport.* **2.** to propose formally that a motion be accepted by a meeting ○ *He moved that the accounts be agreed.* ○ *I move that the meeting should adjourn for ten minutes.* **3.** to make an application to the court

movements of capital /ˌmuːvmənts əv 'kæpɪt(ə)l/ *plural noun* changes of investments from one country to another

mover /'muːvə/ *noun* somebody who proposes a motion

MP *abbreviation* Member of Parliament *or* military police

MR *abbreviation* Master of the Rolls (NOTE: usually written after the surname: *Lord Smith, MR* but spoken as 'the Master of the Rolls, Lord Smith')

Mr Big /ˌmɪstə 'bɪg/ *noun* a criminal whose name is not known, who is the person in control of a large criminal operation (*informal*)

mug /mʌg/ *noun* (*informal*) **1.** somebody who is easily cheated **2.** a face ■ *verb* to attack and rob someone ○ *The tourists were mugged in the station.* ○ *He was accused of mugging an old lady in the street.* (NOTE: **mugging – mugged**)

mugger /'mʌgə/ *noun* somebody who attacks and robs someone

mugging /'mʌgɪŋ/ *noun* the act of attacking and robbing someone ○ *The number of muggings has increased sharply over the last few years.*

mug shot /'mʌg ʃɒt/ *noun* a photograph of a criminal taken after he or she has been detained, kept in the police records

mule /mjuːl/ *noun* a person who takes illegal drugs from one country to another by hiding them on or in their body

multiple ownership /ˌmʌltɪp(ə)l 'əʊnəʃɪp/ *noun* a situation where something is owned by several parties

multi-track /'mʌlti træk/ *noun* (*in civil cases*) the case management system which applies to cases involving sums of more than £15,000 or which present particular complications

COMMENT: The multi-track is the track for most High Court actions including claims regarding professional negligence, fatal accidents, fraud, defamation and claims against the police. The timetable for a multi-track action is as follows: the court fixes a date for a case management conference, then

one for listing questionnaires to be sent and filed, and finally a date for the trial.

municipal law /mjuːˈnɪsɪp(ə)l lɔː/ *noun* law which is in operation within a state. Compare **international law**

muniments /ˈmjuːnɪmənts/ *plural noun* title deeds

murder /ˈmɜːdə/ *noun* **1.** the notifiable offence of killing someone illegally and intentionally ○ *He was charged with murder.* ○ *She was found guilty of murder.* ○ *The murder rate has fallen over the last year.* **2.** an act of killing someone illegally and intentionally ○ *Three murders have been committed during the last week.* ◊ **first degree murder, second degree murder** ■ *verb* to kill someone illegally and intentionally ○ *He was accused of murdering his wife.*

murderer /ˈmɜːdərə/ *noun* somebody who commits a murder

murderess /ˈmɜːdəres/ *noun* a woman who commits a murder

mutineer /ˌmjuːtɪˈnɪə/ *noun* somebody who takes part in a mutiny

mutiny /ˈmjuːtɪni/ *noun* an agreement between two or more members of the armed forces to disobey commands of superior officers and to try to take command themselves ■ *verb* to carry out a mutiny

mutuality /ˌmjuːtʃuˈælɪti/ *noun* a state where two parties are bound contractually to each other

mutual wills /ˌmjuːtʃuəl ˈwɪlz/ *plural noun* wills made by two people, usually each leaving their property to the other (NOTE: Mutual wills are less capable of being revoked than normal wills.)

N

named /neɪmd/ *adjective* □ **person named in the policy** person whose name is given on an insurance policy as the person insured

nark /nɑːk/ *noun* a person, often a criminal, who gives information about other criminals to the police (*slang*)

national /ˈnæʃ(ə)nəl/ *adjective* referring to a particular country ■ *noun* somebody who is a citizen of a state ○ *The government ordered the deportation of all foreign nationals.* ○ *Any national of a Member State has the right to work in another Member State, under the same conditions as nationals of that state.* Compare **non-national**

National Anthem /ˌnæʃ(ə)nəl ˈænθəm/ *noun* a piece of music (sometimes with words which are sung to it) which is used to represent the nation officially, and is played at official ceremonies ○ *Everyone stood up when the National Anthem was played.* ○ *The British National Anthem is 'God Save the Queen'.*

National Audit Office /ˌnæʃ(ə)nəl ˈɔːdɪt ˌɒfɪs/ *noun* an independent body, headed by the Comptroller and Auditor-General, which examines the accounts of government departments

National Crime Squad /ˌnæʃ(ə)nəl ˈkraɪm ˌskwɒd/ *noun* a section of the national police which deals with crime on a nation-wide basis and is not part of any local police force. Abbreviation **NCS**

National Criminal Intelligence Service /ˌnæʃ(ə)nəl ˌkrɪmɪn(ə)l ɪn ˈtelɪdʒ(ə)ns ˌsɜːvɪs/ *noun* a central police department which keeps records of criminals from national and international sources and makes them available to police forces all over the country. Abbreviation **NCIS**

National Insurance contributions /ˌnæʃ(ə)nəl ɪnˈʃʊərəns ˌkɒntrɪbjuːʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* money paid into the National Insurance scheme by the employer and the worker. Abbreviation **NIC**

nationalise /ˈnæʃ(ə)nəlaɪz/, **nationalize** *verb* to put a privately owned industry under state ownership and control

National Offender Management Service /ˌnæʃ(ə)nəl əˈfendə ˌmænɪdʒmənt ˌsɜːvɪs/ *noun* in the UK, a service merging the Prison and Probation services which is responsible for improving the rehabilitation of offenders in order to reduce repeat offences and crime

nation state /ˈneɪʃ(ə)n steɪt/ *noun* a country which is an independent political unit, usually formed of people with the same language and traditions

natural-born subject /ˌnætʃ(ə)rəl bɔːn ˈsʌbdʒɪkt/ *noun* a term formerly applied to a person born in the UK or a Commonwealth country who was a British citizen by birth

natural child /ˌnætʃ(ə)rəl ˈtʃaɪld/ *noun* a child, especially an illegitimate child, of a particular parent

naturalisation /ˌnætʃ(ə)rəlaɪˈzeɪʃ(ə)n/, **naturalization** *noun* the granting of citizenship of a state to a foreigner ○ *She has applied for naturalisation.* ○ *You must fill in the naturalisation papers.*

naturalised /ˈnætʃ(ə)rəlaɪzd/, **naturalized** *adjective* having legally become a citizen of another country ○ *He is a naturalised American citizen.*

natural justice /ˌnætʃ(ə)rəl 'dʒʌstɪs/ *noun* the general principles of justice

natural law /ˌnætʃ(ə)rəl 'lɔː/ *noun* generally accepted rules of human behaviour, applied in all societies

natural parent /ˌnætʃ(ə)rəl 'peərənt/ *noun* same as **biological parent**

natural person /ˌnætʃ(ə)rəl 'pɜːs(ə)n/ *noun* a human being, as opposed to a legal or artificial 'person' such as a company ○ *In this case, the term 'establishment' is not confined to legal persons, but is extended to natural persons.*

natural right /ˌnætʃ(ə)rəl 'raɪt/ *noun* the general right that people have to live freely, usually stated in a written constitution

NCIS *abbreviation* National Criminal Intelligence Service

NCS *abbreviation* National Crime Squad

negative easement /ˌnegətɪv 'iːzmənt/ *noun* an easement where the servient owner stops the dominant owner from doing something

negative integration /ˌnegətɪv ˌɪntɪ 'greɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the removal of trade barriers within the European Union, according to the interpretation of legislation by the European Court of Justice

neglect /nɪ'glekt/ *noun* **1.** failure to do a duty ○ *The children were suffering from neglect.* **2.** a lack of care towards someone or something ■ *verb* **1.** to fail to take care of someone ○ *He neglected his three children.* **2.** □ **to neglect to do something** to forget or omit to do something which has to be done ○ *He neglected to return his income tax form.*

neglected /nɪ'glektɪd/ *adjective* not well looked after ○ *The local authority applied for a care order for the family of neglected children.*

negligence /'neglɪdʒəns/ *noun* **1.** failure to give proper care to something, especially a duty or responsibility, with the result that a person or property is harmed) **2.** the tort of acting carelessly towards others so as to cause harm, entitling the injured party to claim damages

negligent /'neglɪdʒənt/ *adjective* failing to give proper care or attention to something ○ *The defendant was negligent in carrying out his duties as a trustee.*

negligently /'neglɪdʒənt(ə)li/ *adverb* in a way which shows negligence ○ *The guardian acted negligently towards his ward.*

negotiability /nɪˌgəʊʃiə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the ability of a document to be legally transferred to a person simply by passing it to him

negotiable /nɪ'gəʊʃiəb(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** able to be changed by discussion □ **not negotiable** fixed and unable to be changed ○ *The terms of the agreement are not negotiable.* **2.** able to be exchanged for money □ **not negotiable** not able to be exchanged for cash (*sometimes written on a cheque to indicate that only the person named on the cheque can cash it*)

negotiable cheque /nɪˌgəʊʃiəb(ə)l 'tʃek/ *noun* a cheque made payable to bearer, i.e. to anyone who holds it

negotiable instrument /nɪ ˌgəʊʃiəb(ə)l 'ɪnstrʊmənt/ *noun* a document such as a bill of exchange or cheque which can be legally transferred to another owner simply by passing it to him or her or by endorsing it, or which can be exchanged for cash

negotiable paper /nɪˌgəʊʃiəb(ə)l 'peɪpə/ *noun* a document which can be transferred from one owner to another for money

negotiate /nɪ'gəʊʃieɪt/ *verb* □ **to negotiate with someone** to discuss a problem formally with someone, so as to reach an agreement ○ *The management refused to negotiate with the union.* □ **to negotiate terms and conditions**, **to negotiate a contract** to discuss and agree the terms of a contract

negotiation /nɪˌgəʊʃi'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a discussion of terms and conditions to reach an agreement □ **contract under negotiation** contract which is being discussed □ **a matter for negotiation** something which must be discussed before a decision is reached □ **to enter into negotiations**, **to start negotiations** to start discussing a problem □ **to resume nego-**

tiations to start discussing a problem again, after talks have stopped for a time □ **to break off negotiations** to refuse to go on discussing a problem □ **to conduct negotiations** to negotiate

negotiator /nɪ'gəʊʃieɪtə/ *noun* somebody who discusses with the aim of reaching an agreement

neighbourhood watch /ˌneɪbəhʊd 'wɒtʃ/ *noun* a system where the people living in an area are encouraged to look out for criminals or to report any breakdown of law and order

nemine contradicente /ˌnemɪneɪ ˌkɒntrædɪ'senteɪ/**, nem con** /ˌnem 'kɒn/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'with no one contradicting': phrase used to show that no one voted against the proposal ○ *The motion was adopted nem con.*

nemo dat quod non habet /ˌneɪməʊ dæt kwɒd nɒn 'hæbet/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'no one can give what he does not have': the rule that no one can pass or sell to another person something such as stolen goods to which he or she has no title

neo- /niːəʊ/ *prefix* meaning 'new' or 'in a new form' ○ *a neo-fascist movement* ○ *a neo-Nazi organisation*

neocolonialism /ˌniːəʊkə 'ləʊniəlɪz(ə)m/ *noun* the policy of controlling weaker countries as if they were colonies

net /net/**, nett** *adjective*, *adverb* remaining after money has been deducted for tax, expenses, etc. ○ *The company's net profit was £10,000.*

net earnings /ˌnet 'ɜːnɪŋz/ *noun* total earnings after tax and other deductions

net estate /ˌnet ɪ'steɪt/ *noun* the estate of a deceased person less administration charges and funeral costs

net gain /ˌnet 'geɪn/ *noun* the total number of seats gained after deducting seats lost ○ *The government lost twenty seats and gained thirty one, making a net gain of eleven.* Opposite **gross** (NOTE: The opposite is **gross**.)

net price /ˌnet 'praɪs/ *noun* a price which cannot be reduced by a discount

net profit /ˌnet 'prɒfɪt/ *noun* a result where income from sales is larger than all expenditure

neutral /'njuːtrəl/ *adjective* not taking sides in a dispute

neutralism /'njuːtrəlɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a state of affairs where a country does not belong to one or other of the superpower groupings

new trial /ˌnjuː 'traɪəl/ *noun* a trial which can be ordered to take place in civil cases, when the first trial was improper in some way

next friend /ˌnekst 'frend/ *noun* somebody who brings an action on behalf of a minor

next of kin /ˌnekst əv 'kɪn/ *noun* the person or persons who are most closely related to someone ○ *His only next of kin is an aunt living in Scotland.* ○ *The police have informed the next of kin of the people killed in the accident.* (NOTE: can be singular or plural)

NIC *abbreviation* National Insurance contributions

nick /nɪk/ *noun* a police station ■ *verb* **1.** to steal **2.** to arrest

night duty /'naɪt ˌdjuːti/ *noun* work done at night ○ *PC Smith is on night duty this week.*

night rate /'naɪt reɪt/ *noun* cheap telephone calls at night

night safe /'naɪt seɪf/ *noun* a safe in the outside wall of a bank, where money and documents can be deposited at night, using a special door

nil return /ˌnɪl rɪ'tɜːn/ *noun* a report showing no sales, no income, no tax, etc.

nisi ◗ **decree nisi, foreclosure order nisi**

nobble /'nɒb(ə)l/ *verb* to interfere with, bribe or influence a juror or jury (*slang*) ○ *He tried to nobble one of the jurors.*

no-claims bonus /nəʊ 'kleɪmz ˌbəʊnəs/ *noun* the reduction of premiums paid because no claims have been made against an insurance policy

noise abatement /'nɔɪz əˌbeɪtmənt/ *noun* measures taken to reduce unacceptable or vibrations, or to protect peo-

ple form exposure to it ○ *A noise abatement notice was served on the club.*

noise pollution /'nɔɪz pəˌluːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* unpleasant sounds which cause discomfort

nolle prosequi /ˌnɒli 'prɒsɪkwaɪ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'do not pursue': power used by the Attorney-General to stop a criminal trial

nominal /'nɒmɪn(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** (*of an amount*) very small ○ *We make a nominal charge for our services.* ○ *They are paying a nominal rent.* **2.** referring to the official value of something rather than the actual value ○ *property with a nominal value of £1 million* **3.** referring to something that is not what it seems ○ *He was the nominal leader of the group but his wife made all the important decisions.*

nominal damages /ˌnɒmɪn(ə)l 'dæmɪdʒɪz/ *plural noun* a very small amount of damages, awarded to show that the loss or harm suffered was technical rather than actual

nominate /'nɒmɪneɪt/ *verb* to officially suggest someone for a position or a prize ○ *He was nominated as Labour candidate.* □ **to nominate someone to a post** to appoint someone to a post without an election □ **to nominate someone as proxy** to name someone as your proxy

nominator /'nɒmɪneɪtə/ *noun* somebody who is entitled to receive money and writes a nomination

nominee /ˌnɒmɪ'niː/ *noun* **1.** a person who has been officially suggested for a position or a prize **2.** a person who is appointed to deal with financial matters on behalf of another person ○ *He is the Party leader's nominee for the post.*

nominee account /ˌnɒmɪ'niː əˌkaʊnt/ *noun* an account held on behalf of another person

nominee shareholder /ˌnɒmɪniː 'ʃeəhəʊldə/ *noun* a person named as the owner of shares, when the shares are in fact owned by another person

non-acceptance /ˌnɒn ək'septəns/ *noun* a situation where the person who should pay a bill of exchange does not accept it

non-arrestable offence /ˌnɒn əˌrestəb(ə)l ə'fens/ *noun* a crime for which a person cannot be arrested without a warrant

COMMENT: Non-arrestable offences are usually crimes which carry a sentence of less than five years imprisonment.

non-capital crime /ə'fens/**, offence** *noun* a crime or offence for which the punishment is not death

non compos mentis /ˌnɒn ˌkɒmpəs 'mentɪs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'mad' or 'not fully sane'

non-conformance /ˌnɒn kən 'fɔːməns/ *noun* the act of not conforming ○ *He was criticised for non-conformance with the regulations.*

non-consummation /nɒn ˌkɒnsə 'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* □ **non-consummation of marriage** not having sexual intercourse (between husband and wife)

non-contributory pension scheme /nɒn kənˌtrɪbjʊt(ə)ri 'penʃən skiːm/ *noun* a pension scheme where the employee does not make any contributions and the company pays everything

non-direction /ˌnɒn daɪ'rekʃən/ *noun* (*of a judge*) the fact of not giving instructions to a jury about how to consider something

non-disclosure /ˌnɒn dɪs'kləʊʒə/ *noun* the failure to disclose information which one has a duty to disclose

non-executive director /nɒn ɪg ˌzekjʊtɪv daɪ'rektə/ *noun* a director who attends board meetings and gives advice, but does not work full time for a company

nonfeasance /nɒn'fiːzəns/ *noun* failure to do something which should be done by law

nonjoinder /nɒn'dʒɔɪndə/ *noun* a plea that a claimant has not joined all the necessary parties to his or her action

non-molestation order /nɒn ˌməʊle'steɪʃ(ə)n ˌɔːdə/ *noun* an order made by a court to prevent one party, particularly a co-habitant or spouse, from threatening, attacking or making contact with the other

non-national /nɒn 'næʃ(ə)nəl/ *noun* somebody who is not a citizen of a particular state ○ *Non-nationals can be barred from working in an EU country if they do not speak the language.*

non-negotiable instrument /nɒn nɪˌgəʊʃəb(ə)l 'ɪnstrʊmənt/ *noun* a document such as a crossed cheque which is not payable to bearer and so cannot be exchanged for cash

non-payment /ˌnɒn 'peɪmənt/ *noun* □ **non-payment of a debt** not paying a debt due

non-proliferation treaty /ˌnɒn prəˌlɪfə'reɪʃ(ə)n ˌtriːti/ *noun* a treaty to prevent the possession and development of nuclear weapons spreading to countries which do not yet possess them

non-recurring items /nɒn rɪˌkɜːrɪŋ 'aɪtəmz/ *noun* special items in a set of accounts which appear only once

non-refundable /ˌnɒn rɪ'fʌndəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being ineligible for refund

non-resident /ˌnɒn 'rezɪd(ə)nt/ *noun* somebody who is not considered a resident of a country for tax purposes

non-retroactivity /nɒn ˌretrəʊæk 'tɪvɪti/ *noun* (*in the EU*) the state of not being retroactive

non-returnable /ˌnɒn rɪ'tɜːnəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being impossible to return

non-returnable packing /nɒn rɪˌtɜːnəb(ə)l 'pækɪŋ/ *noun* packaging which is to be thrown away when it has been used and not returned to the person who sent it

nonsufficient funds /nɒnsəˌfɪʃənt 'fʌndz/ *noun US* a sum of money in an account which is less than is needed to pay a cheque which has been presented

nonsuit, nonsuited ◇ **to be nonsuit, to be nonsuited 1.** situation in civil proceedings where a claimant fails to establish a cause of action and is forced to abandon his proceedings **2.** situation in criminal proceedings where a judge directs a jury to find the defendant not guilty

non-taxable /ˌnɒn 'tæksəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being ineligible for tax

non-verbal evidence /nɒn ˌvɜːb(ə)l 'evɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* evidence produced in court in the form of maps, photographs or other documents

COMMENT: Verbal evidence may be written or spoken. British lawyers refer specifically to spoken evidence as oral evidence.

non-voting shares /ˌnɒn ˌvəʊtɪŋ 'ʃeəz/ *plural noun* shares which do not allow the shareholder to vote at meetings

North-Eastern Circuit, Northern Circuit /ˌnɔːθ 'iːstən ˌsɜːkɪt/ *noun* two of the six circuits of the Crown Court to which barristers belong, with centres in Leeds and Manchester

noscitur a sociis /ˌnɒskɪtɜː ɑː 'səʊsɪis/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'the meaning of the words can be understood from the words around them': ambiguous words or phrases can be clarified by referring to the context in which they are used

notarial /nəʊ'teəriəl/ *adjective* referring to notaries public

notarial act /nəʊˌteəriəl 'ækt/ *noun* an act which can be carried out only by a notary public

notary public /ˌnəʊtəri 'pʌblɪk/**, notary** *noun* a lawyer, usually but not necessarily a solicitor, who has the authority to draw up and witness specific types of document and so make them official (NOTE: The plural is **notaries public**.)

note /nəʊt/ *verb* □ **to note a bill** to attach a note to a dishonoured bill of exchange, explaining why it has not been honoured

note of costs /ˌnəʊt əv 'kɒsts/ *noun* a bill or invoice

note of hand /ˌnəʊt əv 'hænd/ *noun* a document stating that someone promises to pay an amount of money on a specified date

not guilty /ˌnɒt 'gɪlti/ ◗ **guilty**

notice /'nəʊtɪs/ *noun* **1.** a piece of written information ○ *The company secretary pinned up a notice about the pension scheme.* **2.** information given to warn someone officially that something is going to happen, e.g. that a contract is going to end, that terms of a contract are going to be changed, that an employee will leave a job at a specific date, or that a tenant must leave the property being occupied □ **to give someone notice**, **to**

serve notice on someone to give someone a legal notice □ **to give a tenant notice to quit**, **to serve a tenant with notice to quit** to inform a tenant officially that he has to leave the premises by a specified date □ **she has handed in**, **given her notice** she has said she will quit her job □ **until further notice** until different instructions are given □ **at short notice** with very little warning □ **you must give seven days' notice of withdrawal** you must ask to take money out of the account seven days before you want it **3.** a legal document informing someone of something □ **to give notice of appeal** to start official proceedings for an appeal to be heard **4.** knowledge of a fact

notice of allocation /ˌnəʊtɪs əv ˌælə'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an official letter from a court, telling the parties to which of three management tracks their case has been allocated

notice of dishonour /ˌnəʊtɪs əv dɪs 'ɒnə/ *noun* a letter or document warning a person to pay a cheque or risk being sued

notice of motion /ˌnəʊtɪs əv 'məʊʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a document telling the other party to a case that an application will be made to the court

notice of opposition /ˌnəʊtɪs əv ˌɒpə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a document opposing a patent application

notice of service /ˌnəʊtɪs əv 'sɜːvɪs/ *noun* a document issued by a court to show that a claim has been served

notice to quit /ˌnəʊtɪs tə 'kwɪt/ *noun* formal notice served by a landlord on a tenant before proceedings are started for possession

notifiable /'nəʊtɪfaɪəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being necessary to be notified

notifiable offence /ˌnəʊtɪfaɪəb(ə)l ə 'fens/ *noun* a serious offence which can be tried in the Crown Court

not proven /ˌnɒt 'pruːv(ə)n/ *adjective* referring to a verdict that a prosecution has not produced sufficient evidence to allow the accused to be proved guilty

notwithstanding /ˌnɒtwɪð'stændɪŋ/ *preposition* in spite of ○ *The case proceeded notwithstanding the objections of the defendant.* ■ *adverb* despite the fact or thing previously mentioned ○ *We had to close the advice centre for lack of funds, its excellent work notwithstanding.*

novation /nəʊ'veɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a transaction in which a new contract is agreed by all parties to replace an existing contract, e.g. where one of the parties to the old contract is released from their liability under the old contract and this liability is assumed by a third party

no win no fee /nəʊ ˌwɪn nəʊ 'fiː/ *noun* same as **conditional fee agreement**

NSF *abbreviation US* nonsufficient funds

nuisance /'njuːs(ə)ns/ *noun* something which causes harm or inconvenience to someone or to property

null /nʌl/ *adjective* without legal value or effect □ **the contract was declared null and void** the contract was said to be no longer valid □ **to render a decision null** to make a decision useless, to cancel a decision

nullification /ˌnʌlɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of making something invalid

nullify /'nʌlɪfaɪ/ *verb* to make something lose its legal value or effect

nullity /'nʌlɪti/ *noun* **1.** an action which is void or invalid **2.** a situation where a marriage is ruled never to have been in effective existence

nuncupative will /ˌnʌnkʌpətɪv 'wɪl/ *noun* a will made orally in the presence of a witness, e.g. a will made by a soldier in time of war

O

oath /əʊθ/ *noun* a solemn legal promise that someone will say or write only what is true □ **he was on oath**, **under oath** he had promised in court to say what was true □ **to administer an oath to someone** to make someone swear an oath □ **to take the oath** to swear allegiance to the Queen before taking one's seat as an MP ○ *After taking the oath, the new MP signs the test roll.*

oath of allegiance /ˌəʊθ əv ə 'liːdʒəns/ *noun* **1.** an oath which is sworn to put the person under the orders or rules of a country, an army, etc ○ *all officers swore an oath of allegiance to the new president* **2.** an oath sworn by all MPs before they can take their seats in the House of Commons (or alternatively they can affirm)

obiter dicta /ˌɒbɪtə 'dɪktə/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'things which are said in passing': part of a judgment which is not essential to the decision of the judge and does not create a precedent. ◊ **ratio decidendi** (NOTE: The singular is **obiter dictum**.)

object *noun* /'ɒbdʒekt/ purpose or aim ■ *verb* /əb'dʒekt/ to say that you do not accept or agree with something ○ *to object to a clause in a contract* □ **to object to a juror** to ask for a juror not to be appointed because he or she may be biased

objection /əb'dʒekʃən/ *noun* □ **to raise an objection to something** to object to something ○ *One of the parties raised an objection to the wording of the agreement.*

objective /əb'dʒektɪv/ *noun* something which you try to do ■ *adjective* considered from a general point of view and not from that of the person involved ○ *to carry out an objective review of current legislation* ○ *The judge asked the jury to be objective in considering the evidence put before them.* ○ *You must be objective in assessing the performance of the staff.*

objects clause /'ɒbdʒɪkts klɔːz/ *noun* a section in a company's memorandum of association which says what work the company will do

obligate /'ɒblɪgeɪt/ *verb* □ **to be obligated to do something** *especially US* to have a legal duty to do something

obligation /ˌɒblɪ'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a duty to do something □ **to be under an obligation to do something** to feel it is your duty to do something □ **he is under no contractual obligation to buy** he has signed no agreement to buy □ **to fulfil one's contractual obligations** to do what is stated in a contract □ **two weeks' free trial without obligation** situation where the customer can try the item at home for two weeks without having to buy it at the end of the test **2.** a debt □ **to meet one's obligations** to pay one's debts

obligatory /ə'blɪgət(ə)ri/ *adjective* necessary according to the law or rules ○ *Each new member of staff has to pass an obligatory medical examination.*

obligee /ˌɒblɪ'dʒiː/ *noun* somebody who is owed a duty

obligor /ˌɒblɪ'gɔː/ *noun* somebody who owes a duty to someone

obscene /əb'siːn/ *adjective* likely to offend public morals and accepted standards of decency, or to deprave or corrupt someone ○ *The magazine was classed as an obscene publication.* ○ *The police seized a number of obscene films.*

obscene publication /əbˌsiːn ˌpʌblɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a book or maga-

zine which is liable to deprave or corrupt someone who sees or reads it ○ *The magazine was classed as an obscene publication and seized by customs.*

obscenity /əb'senɪti/ *noun* the state of being obscene ○ *The magistrate commented on the obscenity of some parts of the film.*

obscenity laws /əb'senɪti lɔːz/ *plural noun* law relating to obscene publications or films

observance /əb'zɜːv(ə)ns/ *noun* doing what is required by a law ○ *The government's observance of international agreements.*

observe /əb'zɜːv/ *verb* **1.** to obey a rule or a law ○ *failure to observe the correct procedure* ○ *All members of the association should observe the code of practice.* **2.** to watch or to notice what is happening ○ *Officials have been instructed to observe the conduct of the election.*

observer /əb'zɜːvə/ *noun* somebody who observes ○ *Two official observers attended the meeting.*

obsolete /'ɒbsəliːt/ *adjective* no longer being used or in force and replaced by something else ○ *The law has been made obsolete by new developments in forensic science.*

obstruct /əb'strʌkt/ *verb* to stop something progressing ○ *The parked cars are obstructing the traffic.* □ **obstructing the police** the offence of doing something which prevents a police officer carrying out his or her duty

obstruction /əb'strʌkʃən/ *noun* **1.** something which gets in the way ○ *The car caused an obstruction to the traffic.* **2.** an act of obstructing someone □ **obstruction of the police** doing anything which prevents a police officer from doing his or her duty

obstructive /əb'strʌktɪv/ *adjective* deliberately causing problems ○ *obstructive behaviour*

obtain /əb'teɪn/ *verb* **1.** to get something ○ *to obtain supplies from abroad* ○ *to obtain an injunction against a company* ○ *We find these items very difficult to obtain.* ○ *He obtained control by buying the family shareholding.* □ **to obtain a property by fraud**, **by deception** to trick someone into handing over possession of property □ **obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception** offence of deceiving someone so as to derive a financial benefit **2.** to exist, be generally accepted, or have legal status ○ *a rule obtaining in international law* ○ *This right does not obtain in judicial proceedings.*

obtaining by deception /əbˌteɪnɪŋ baɪ dɪ'sepʃən/ *noun* the act of acquiring money or property by tricking someone into handing it over

obtaining credit /əbˌteɪnɪŋ 'kredɪt/ *noun* an offence whereby an undischarged bankrupt obtains credit above a limit of £50

occasion /ə'keɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* the time when something takes place ○ *The opening of the trial was the occasion of protests by the family of the accused.* ■ *verb* to make something happen ○ *He pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm.*

occasional /ə'keɪʒ(ə)n(ə)l/ *adjective* happening from time to time

occasional licence /əˌkeɪʒ(ə)n(ə)l 'laɪs(ə)ns/ *noun* a licence to sell alcohol at a specific place and time only

occupancy /'ɒkjʊpənsi/ *noun* **1.** the act of occupying a property such as a house, office, or room in a hotel □ **with immediate occupancy** empty and available to be occupied immediately **2.** the fact of occupying a property which has no owner and so acquiring title to the property

occupant /'ɒkjʊpənt/ *noun* a person or company which occupies a property

occupation /ˌɒkjʊ'peɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act of occupying a property which has no owner, and so acquiring title to the property **2.** the work that someone does

occupational /ˌɒkjʊ'peɪʃ(ə)nəl/ *adjective* referring to a job □ **occupational accident** accident which takes place at work □ **occupational disease** a disease which affects people in some jobs □ **occupational hazards** dangers which apply to specific jobs

occupational pension /ˌɒkjʊpeɪʃ(ə)nəl 'penʃə/ *noun* a pension which is paid by the company by which an employee has been employed

occupational pension scheme /ˌɒkjʊpeɪʃ(ə)nəl 'penʃən skiːm/ *noun* a pension scheme where the employee gets a pension from the company he or she has worked for

occupation order /ˌɒkjʊ'peɪʃ(ə)n ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a court order in marital proceedings which decides the rights of a spouse to use the marital home. It may exclude them entirely or allow them access to the whole or part of the home. Former name **exclusion order**

occupier /'ɒkjʊpaɪə/ *noun* somebody who lives in a property

COMMENT: The occupier has the right to stay in or on a property, but is not necessarily an owner.

occupier's liability /ˌɒkjʊpaɪəz ˌlaɪə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the duty of an occupier to make sure that visitors to a property are not harmed

occupy /'ɒkjʊpaɪ/ *verb* to enter and stay in a property illegally ○ *The rebels occupied the Post Office.* ○ *Squatters are occupying the building.*

offence /ə'fens/ *noun* an illegal act ○ *He was charged with three serious offences.* ○ *The minister was arrested and charged with offences against the Official Secrets Act.* (NOTE: The US spelling is **offense**.) □ **offence against the person** a criminal act which harms a person physically, e.g. murder or actual bodily harm □ **offence against property** a criminal act which damages or destroys property, e.g. theft, forgery or criminal damage □ **offence against public order** a criminal act which disturbs the general calm of society, e.g. riot or affray □ **offence against the state** an attack on the lawful government of a country, e.g. sedition or treason □ **offence triable either way** an offence which can be tried before a magistrates' court or a Crown Court

offend /ə'fend/ *verb* to commit a crime

offender /ə'fendə/ *noun* somebody who commits a crime

offensive weapon /əˌfensɪv 'wepən/ *noun* an object which can be used to harm a person or property □ **carrying offensive weapons** the offence of holding a weapon or something such as a bottle which could be used as a weapon

COMMENT: Many things can be considered as offensive weapons if they are used as such: a brick, a bottle, a piece of wire, etc.

offer /'ɒfə/ *noun* **1.** a statement by one party to a contract that he or she proposes to do something (NOTE: The offer (and acceptance by the other party) is one of the essential elements of a contract.) **2.** □ **the house is under offer** someone has made an offer to buy the house and the offer has been accepted provisionally □ **open to offers** willing to discuss changing something that has been put forward □ **or near offer (o.n.o.)** or an offer of a price which is slightly less than the price asked ○ *asking price: #200 o.n.o.* **3.** □ **he received six offers of jobs**, **six job offers** six companies told him he could have a job with them ■ *verb* **1.** to propose something to someone, or propose to do something ○ *he offered to buy the house* ○ *to offer someone £100,000 for his house* ○ *he offered £10 a share* □ **to offer someone a job** to tell someone that he or she can have a job in your company **2.** to say that you are willing to sell something ○ *We offered the house for sale.*

offeree /ˌɒfə'riː/ *noun* somebody who receives an offer

offer for sale /ˌɒfə fə 'seɪl/ *noun* a situation where a company advertises new shares for sale

offer of amends /ˌɒfə əv ə'mendz/ *plural noun* an offer to write an apology by someone who has libelled another person

offeror /'ɒfərə/ *noun* somebody who makes an offer

offer price /'ɒfə praɪs/ *noun* the price at which new shares are put on sale

offer to buy /ˌɒfə tə 'baɪ/ *noun* a statement that you are willing to pay a specific amount of money to buy something ○ *to make an offer for a company* ○ *to accept an offer of £1,000 for the car* ○ *He made an offer of £10 a share.* ○ *We made a written offer for the house.* ○ *£1,000 is the best offer I can make.*

offer to sell /ˌɒfə tə 'sel/ *noun* a statement that you are willing to sell something

office /'ɒfɪs/ *noun* **1.** a set of rooms where a company works or where busi-

ness is done **2.** a room where someone works and does business ○ *Come into my office.* ○ *She has a pleasant office which looks out over the park.* ○ *The senior partner's office is on the third floor.* **3.** □ **information office**, **inquiry office** office where someone can answer questions from members of the public **4.** a post or position ○ *He holds* or *performs the office of treasurer.* □ **compensation for loss of office** payment to a director who is asked to leave a company before his or her contract ends

office creeper /'ɒfɪs ˌkriːpə/ *noun* a well-dressed, well-spoken thief who pretends to be someone such as a sales or repair person and steals valuable items such as laptop computers from offices

office junior /ˌɒfɪs 'dʒuːniə/ *noun* a young man or woman who does all types of work in an office

Office of Fair Trading /ˌɒfɪs əv feə 'treɪdɪŋ/ *noun* the British government department which protects consumers against unfair or illegal business

office of profit /ˌɒfɪs əv 'prɒfɪt/**, office of profit under the Crown** /ˌɒfɪs əv ˌprɒfɪt 'ʌndə ðɪ kraʊn/ *noun* a government post which disqualifies someone from being a Member of Parliament

officer /'ɒfɪsə/ *noun* **1.** somebody who has an official position □ **the company officers**, **the officers of a company** the main executives or directors of a company **2.** an official, usually unpaid, of a club or society ○ *The election of officers of an association.*

office security /ˌɒfɪs sɪ'kjʊərɪti/ *noun* the means taken to protect an office against theft of equipment, personal property or information

office space /'ɒfɪs speɪs/ *noun* the space available for offices or occupied by offices

office staff /ˌɒfɪs 'stɑːf/ *noun* people who work in offices

official /ə'fɪʃ(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** done because it has been authorised by a government department or organisation ○ *He left official documents in his car.* ○ *She received an official letter of explanation.* □ **speaking in an official capacity** speaking officially □ **to go through official channels** to deal with officials, especially when making a request **2.** done or approved by a director or by a person in authority ○ *This must be an official order – it is written on the company's notepaper.* ■ *noun* somebody working in a government department

official copy /əˌfɪʃ(ə)l 'kɒpɪ/ *noun* a copy of an official document which has been sealed by the office which issued it

Official Journal /əˌfɪʃ(ə)l 'dʒɜːn(ə)l/ *noun* a publication which lists the regulations, statutory instruments and directives of the EC

officially /ə'fɪʃ(ə)li/ *adverb* in an official way ○ *Officially he knows nothing about the problem, but unofficially he has given us a lot of advice about it.*

official mediator /əˌfɪʃ(ə)l 'miːdieɪtə/ *noun* a government official who tries to make the two sides in an industrial dispute agree

Official Receiver /əˌfɪʃ(ə)l rɪ'siːvə/ *noun* a government official who is appointed to close down a company which is in liquidation or deal with the affairs of a bankrupt

official referee /əˌfɪʃ(ə)l ˌrefə'riː/ *noun* a judge with specialist knowledge who is appointed by the High Court to try complicated, usually technical, cases of a particular type

official return /əˌfɪʃ(ə)l rɪ'tɜːn/ *noun* an official report or statement

official secret /əˌfɪʃ(ə)l 'siːkrət/ *noun* a piece of information which is classified as important to the state and which it is a crime to reveal

Official Secrets Act /əˌfɪʃ(ə)l 'siːkrəts ˌækt/ *noun* an Act of Parliament which governs the publication of secret information relating to the state

Official Solicitor /əˌfɪʃ(ə)l sə'lɪsɪtə/ *noun* a solicitor who acts in the High Court for parties who have no-one to act for them, usually because they are under a legal disability

official strike /əˌfɪʃ(ə)l 'straɪk/ *noun* a strike which has been approved by the union

officio /ə'fɪʃɪəʊ/ ◗ **ex officio, functus officio**

off-licence /ˈɒf ˌlaɪs(ə)ns/ *noun* **1.** a licence to sell alcohol for drinking away from the place where you buy it **2.** a shop which sells alcohol for drinking at home

offspring /ˈɒfˌsprɪŋ/ *noun* a child or children of a parent ○ *His offspring inherited the estate.* ○ *They had two offspring.* (NOTE: offspring is both singular and plural)

off the record /ˌɒf ðə ˈrekɔːd/ *adverb* unofficially or in private ○ *He made some remarks off the record about the rising crime figures.*

Old Bailey /ˌəʊld ˈbeɪli/ *noun* the Central Criminal Court in London

old lag /ˌəʊld ˈlæg/ *noun* a criminal who has served many (short) prison sentences, one who will never go straight (*informal*)

oligarchical /ˌɒlɪˈgɑːkɪk(ə)l/**, oligarchic** /ˌɒlɪˈgɑːkɪk/ *adjective* referring to an oligarchy

ombudsman /ˈɒmbʊdzmən/ *noun* an official who investigates complaints by the public against government departments or other large organisations. Also called **Parliamentary Commissioner**

COMMENT: There are in fact several ombudsmen: the main one is the Parliamentary Commissioner, but there are also others, such as the Health Service Commissioner, who investigates complaints against the Health Service, and the Local Ombudsman who investigates complaints against local authorities, the Banking Ombudsman, who investigates complaints against banks, etc. In 1990, a Legal Services Ombudsman was appointed to investigate complaints against non-legal professional people who supply legal services, such as conveyancing. Although an ombudsman will make his recommendations to the department concerned, and may make his recommendations public, he has no power to enforce them. The Parliamentary Commissioner may only investigate complaints which are addressed to him through an MP; the member of the public first brings his complaint to his MP, and if the MP cannot get satisfaction from the department against which the complaint is made, then the matter is passed to the Ombudsman.

omission /əʊˈmɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the failure to do something

one minute speech /ˌwʌn ˈmɪnət ˌspiːtʃ/ *noun US* a short speech by a member of the House of Representatives on any subject at the beginning of the day's business

o.n.o. *abbreviation* or near offer

onus /ˈəʊnəs/ *noun* responsibility for doing something difficult □ **onus of proof**, **onus probandi** the duty to prove that what has been alleged in court is correct ○ *The onus of proof is on the claimant.* ◊ **burden of proof**

op. cit. *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'in the work mentioned' (NOTE: used when referring to a legal text: '**see Smith LJ in** *Jones v. Amalgamated Steel Ltd* **op. cit. p. 260**')

open /ˈəʊpən/ *adjective* □ **in open court** in a courtroom with members of the public present ■ *verb* to begin speaking ○ *Counsel for the prosecution opened with a description of the accused's family background.* □ **to open negotiations** to begin negotiating

open account /ˌəʊpən əˈkaʊnt/ *noun* an amount owed with no security offered

open cheque /ˌəʊpən ˈtʃek/ *noun* a cheque which is not crossed and can be exchanged for cash anywhere

open court /ˈəʊpən kɔːt/ *noun* a court where the hearings are open to the public

open credit /ˌəʊpən ˈkredɪt/ *noun* bank credit given to good customers without security up to a maximum sum

open-ended /ˌəʊpən ˈendɪd/**, open-end** *US* /ˌəʊpən ˈend/ *adjective* with no fixed limit, or with some items not specified ○ *an open-ended agreement*

open hearing /ˌəʊpən ˈhɪərɪŋ/ *noun* a hearing that the public and journalists may attend

opening /ˈəʊp(ə)nɪŋ/ *noun* □ **a market opening** possibility of starting to do business in a new market ■ *adjective* happening at the beginning of something ○ *the judge's opening remarks* ○ *the opening speech from the defence counsel* or *from the Home Secretary*

opening balance /ˈəʊp(ə)nɪŋ ˌbæləns/ *noun* the balance at the beginning of an accounting period

opening bid /ˌəʊp(ə)nɪŋ 'bɪd/ *noun* the first bid at an auction

opening entry /'əʊp(ə)nɪŋ ˌentri/ *noun* the first entry in an account

opening price /ˌəʊp(ə)nɪŋ 'praɪs/ *noun* the price at the start of a day's trading

opening stock /ˌəʊp(ə)nɪŋ 'stɒk/ *noun* the details of stock at the beginning of an accounting period

open policy /ˌəʊpən 'pɒlɪsi/ *noun* a marine insurance policy, where the value of what is insured is not stated

open prison /ˌəʊpən 'prɪz(ə)n/ *noun* a prison with minimum security where category 'D' prisoners can be kept

open ticket /ˌəʊpən 'tɪkɪt/ *noun* a ticket which can be used on any date

open verdict /ˌəʊpən 'vɜːdɪkt/ *noun* a verdict in a coroner's court which does not decide how the dead person died ○ *The court recorded an open verdict on the two policemen.*

operandi ➧ **modus operandi**

operating /'ɒpəreɪtɪŋ/ *noun* the general running of a business or of a machine

operating budget /'ɒpəreɪtɪŋ ˌbʌdʒɪt/ *noun* income and expenditure which is expected to be incurred over a period of time

operating costs /'ɒpəreɪtɪŋ ˌkɒsts/ *plural noun* costs of the day-to-day organisation of a company

operating loss /'ɒpəreɪtɪŋ lɒs/ *noun* a loss made by a company in its usual business

operation /ˌɒpə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* □ **in operation** working, being used ○ *The system will be in operation by June.* ○ *The new system came into operation on June 1st.*

operational /ˌɒpə'reɪʃ(ə)nəl/ *adjective* □ **the system became operational on June 1st** the system began working on June 1st

operational budget /ˌɒpəreɪʃ(ə)nəl 'bʌdʒɪt/ *noun* expenditure which is expected to be made in running a business, office or other organisation such as police force

operational costs /ˌɒpəreɪʃ(ə)nəl 'kɒsts/ *plural noun* costs of running a business or a police force

operational planning /ˌɒpəreɪʃ(ə)nəl 'plænɪŋ/ *noun* the activity of planning how something is to be run

operational research /ˌɒpəreɪʃ(ə)nəl rɪ'sɜːtʃ/ *noun* a study of a method of working to see if it can be made more efficient and cost-effective

operations review /ˌɒpəreɪʃ(ə)nz rɪ 'vjuː/ *noun* an assessment of the way in which a company or department works to see how it can be made more efficient and profitable

operative words /ˌɒp(ə)rətɪv 'wɜːdz/ *plural noun* words in a conveyancing document which transfer the land or create an interest in the land

opinion /ə'pɪnjən/ *noun* **1.** □ **to be of the opinion** to believe or to think ○ *The judge was of the opinion that if the evidence was doubtful the claim should be dismissed.* **2.** a piece of expert advice ○ *to ask an adviser for his opinion on a case* ○ *The lawyers gave their opinion.* ○ *Counsel prepared a written opinion.* **3.** a judgment delivered by a court, especially the House of Lords **4.** (*in the EU*) an opinion of the European Community which is not legally binding

opinion poll /ə'pɪnjən pəʊl/ *noun* the activity of asking a sample group of people what they feel about something in order to assess the opinion of the whole population

opponent /ə'pəʊnənt/ *noun* somebody who is against you or who votes against what you propose ○ *The prosecution tried to discredit their opponents in the case.*

oppose /ə'pəʊz/ *verb* **1.** to try to stop something happening ○ *We are all opposed to the takeover.* ○ *Counsel for the claimant opposed the defendant's application for an adjournment.* □ **the police opposed bail**, **opposed the granting of bail** the police said that bail should not be granted to the accused **2.** to vote against something ○ *A minority of board members opposed the motion.*

opposition /ˌɒpə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* strong disagreement with a suggestion or plan, often including action to try to change or stop it ○ *There was considerable opposition to the plan for reorganising the divorce courts.* ○ *The voters showed their opposition to the government by voting against the proposal in the referendum.*

option /'ɒpʃən/ *noun* an offer to someone of the right to enter into a contract at a later date □ **option to purchase, to sell** giving someone the possibility to buy or sell something within a period of time or when a specific event happens □ **to grant someone a six-month option on a product** to allow someone six months to decide if he or she wants to be the agent for a product, or if he or she wants to manufacture the product under licence □ **to take up an option, to exercise an option** to accept the option which has been offered and to put it into action ○ *He exercised his option* or *he took up his option to acquire sole marketing rights to the product.* □ **I want to leave my options open** I want to be able to decide what to do when the time is right □ **to take the soft option** to decide to do something which involves the least risk, effort or problems

option contract /'ɒpʃən ˌkɒntrækt/ *noun* the right to buy or sell shares at a fixed price

oral /'ɔːrəl/ *adjective* spoken

oral evidence /ˌɔːrəl 'evɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* spoken evidence, as opposed to written evidence

orally /'ɔːrəli/ *adverb* in speech, not in writing

order /'ɔːdə/ *noun* **1.** a general state of calm, where everything is working as planned and ruled ○ *There was a serious breakdown of law and order.* □ **offence against public order, public order offence** riot, street fight, etc. **2.** □ **orders** legislation made by ministers, under powers delegated to them by Act of Parliament, but which still have to be ratified by Parliament before coming into force **3.** □ **to call a meeting to order** to start proceedings officially □ **to bring a meeting to order** to get a meeting back to discussing the agenda again (after an interruption) □ **order ! order!** call by the Speaker of the House of Commons to bring the meeting to order **4.** □ **pay to Mr Smith or order** pay money to Mr Smith or as he orders □ **pay to the order of Mr Smith** pay money directly into Mr Smith's account

order book /'ɔːdə bʊk/ *noun* a list showing the House of Commons business for the term of Parliament

Order in Council /ˌɔːdə ɪn 'kaʊns(ə)l/ *noun* legislation approved by the Queen in Council, which is allowed by an Act of Parliament and does not have to be ratified by Parliament

order of certiorari /ˌɔːdə əv ˌsɜːʃiə 'reərai/ *noun* an order which transfers a case from a lower court to the High Court for investigation into its legality ○ *He applied for judicial review by way of certiorari.* ○ *The court ordered certiorari following judicial review, quashing the order made by the juvenile court.*

order of committal /ˌɔːdə əv kə 'mɪt(ə)l/ *noun* same as **committal order**

order of discharge /ˌɔːdə əv 'dɪstʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* a court order releasing a person from bankruptcy

order paper /ˌɔːdə 'peɪpə/ *noun* the agenda of business to be discussed each day in the House of Commons

ordinance /'ɔːdɪnəns/ *noun* **1.** a special decree of a government **2.** *US* a rule made by a municipal authority, and effective only within the jurisdiction of that authority

ordinarily /'ɔːd(ə)n(ə)rɪli/ *adverb* normally or usually

ordinarily resident /ˌɔːd(ə)n(ə)rɪli 'rezɪd(ə)nt/ *noun* someone who is usually resident in a particular country

ordinary /'ɔːd(ə)n(ə)ri/ *adjective* normal or not special

ordinary member /ˌɔːd(ə)n(ə)ri 'membə/ *noun* somebody who pays a subscription to belong to a club or group

ordinary resolution /ˌɔːd(ə)n(ə)ri ˌrezə'luːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a resolution which can be passed by a simple majority of shareholders

ordinary shareholder /ˌɔːd(ə)n(ə)ri ˈʃeəhəʊldə/ *noun* somebody who owns ordinary shares in a company

organised crime /ˌɔːgənaɪzd ˈkraɪm/ *noun* criminal activities which are run as a business, with groups of specialist criminals, assistants, security staff, etc., all run by a group of directors or by a boss

organised labour /ˌɔːgənaɪzd ˈleɪbə/ *noun* all the employees who are members of trade unions

original /əˈrɪdʒən(ə)l/ *noun* the first copy made ○ *Send the original and file two copies.*

original evidence /əˌrɪdʒən(ə)l ˈevɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* evidence given by a witness, based on facts which he or she knows to be true as opposed to hearsay

originate /əˈrɪdʒɪneɪt/ *verb* to begin to exist

originating application /əˌrɪdʒɪneɪtɪŋ ˌæplɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a way of beginning some types of case in the County Court

originating summons /əˌrɪdʒɪneɪtɪŋ ˈsʌmənz/ *noun* a summons whereby a legal action is commenced, usually in the Chancery Division of the High Court in cases relating to land or the administration of an estate

orphan /ˈɔːf(ə)n/ *noun* a child whose parents have died

ostensible /ɒˈstensɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* appearing to be something, but not really so

ostensible partner /ɒˌstensɪb(ə)l ˈpɑːtnə/ *noun* a person who appears to be a partner in a business by allowing his or her name to be used but really has no interest

otherwise /ˈʌðəwaɪz/ *adverb* in another way ○ *John Smith, otherwise known as 'the Butcher'.* □ **except as otherwise stated** except where it is stated in a different way □ **unless otherwise agreed** unless different terms are agreed

ouster /ˈaʊstə/ *noun* the removal of an occupier from a property so that he or she has to sue to regain possession, used especially in matrimonial proceedings against a violent spouse ○ *He had to apply for an ouster order.* ○ *The judge made an ouster order.* Compare **eject**

Outer House /ˈaʊtə haʊz/ *noun* part of the Scottish Court of Session, formed of five judges

outlaw /ˈaʊtlɔː/ *noun* an old term for a person who was thrown out of society as a punishment ■ *verb* to say that something is unlawful ○ *The government has proposed a bill to outlaw drinking in public.*

outline planning permission /ˌaʊt(ə)laɪn ˈplænɪŋ pəˌmɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* general permission to build a property on a piece of land, but not final because there are no details provided

out of court /ˌaʊt əv ˈkɔːt/ *adverb, adjective* settled without going to court to end a dispute □ **a settlement was reached out of court** a dispute was settled between two parties privately without continuing a court case

out of pocket /ˌaʊt əv ˈpɒkɪt/ *adjective, adverb* having paid out money personally □ **out-of-pocket expenses** the amount of money to pay an employee back for his or her own money which has been spent on company business

output tax /ˈaʊtpʊt tæks/ *noun* VAT charged by a company on goods or services sold

outright /ˌaʊtˈraɪt/ *adverb, adjective* completely □ **to purchase something outright**, **to make an outright purchase** to buy something completely, including all rights in it

outside /ˈaʊtsaɪd/ *adjective, adverb* not in a prison or institution □ **on the outside** outside a prison or institution ○ *They need help with returning to life on the outside.*

outside dealer /ˌaʊtsaɪd ˈdiːlə/ *noun* somebody who is not a member of the Stock Exchange but is allowed to trade

outside director /ˌaʊtsaɪd daɪ ˈrektə/ *noun* a director who is not employed by the company

outside line /ˌaʊtsaɪd ˈlaɪn/ *noun* a line from an internal office telephone system to the main telephone exchange

outside worker /ˈaʊtsaɪd ˌwɜːkə/ *noun* a worker who does not work in a company's offices

outstanding /aʊt'stændɪŋ/ *adjective* not yet paid or completed □ **matters outstanding from the previous meeting** questions which were not settled at the previous meeting

outstanding debts /aʊtˌstændɪŋ 'dets/ *plural noun* debts which are waiting to be paid

outstanding offences /aʊtˌstændɪŋ ə'fenss/ *plural noun* offences for which a person has not yet been convicted, which can be considered at the same time as a similar offence for which he or she faces sentence

Oval Office /ˌəʊvəl 'ɒfɪs/ *noun* the room in the White House which is the personal office of the President of the United States (NOTE: also used to mean the President himself: *The Oval Office was not pleased by the attitude of the Senate.*)

overall majority /ˌəʊvərɔːl mə 'dʒɒrɪti/ *noun* same as **absolute majority**

overdue /ˌəʊvə'djuː/ *adjective* having not been paid on time □ **interest payments are three weeks overdue** interest payments which should have been made three weeks ago. Compare **outstanding**

overreaching /ˌəʊvə'riːtʃɪŋ/ *noun* a legal principle where an interest in land is replaced by a direct right to money

override /ˌəʊvə'raɪd/ *verb* **1.** to be more important than something else ○ *They believe public safety overrides individual preference.* **2.** to use official power to change someone else's decision ○ *The appeal court overrode the decision of the lower court.*

COMMENT: If the President of the USA disapproves of a bill sent to him by Congress for signature, he can send it back with objections within ten days of receiving it. Then if the Congress votes with a two-thirds majority in both Houses to continue with the bill, the bill becomes law and the President's veto is overridden.

overrider /'əʊvəraɪdə/**, overriding commission** /ˌəʊvəraɪdɪŋ kə'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a special extra commission which is above all other commissions

overriding interest /ˌəʊvəraɪdɪŋ 'ɪntrəst/ *noun* an interest which comes before that of another party ○ *His wife established an overriding interest in the property against the bank's charge on it.* (NOTE: **overriding – overrode – has overridden**)

overrule /ˌəʊvə'ruːl/ *verb* **1.** (*of a higher court*) to set a new precedent by deciding a case on a different principle from one laid down by a lower court ○ *The Supreme Court can overrule any other court in the USA.* **2.** (*in a meeting*) not to allow something because you are more powerful than others ○ *Mr Smith tried to object but his objection was overruled by the chairman.* ○ *Community law must overrule national constitutions of Member States.*

overseas call /ˌəʊvəsiːz 'kɔːl/ *noun* a call to another country

overt /əʊ'vɜːt/ *adjective* clear and obvious

overt act /əʊ'vɜːt ækt/ *noun* an act which is obviously aimed at committing a criminal offence

overtime /'əʊvətaɪm/ *adverb* □ **to work overtime** to work longer hours than in the contract of employment

overtime pay /'əʊvətaɪm peɪ/ *noun* pay for extra time worked

overturn /ˌəʊvə'tɜːn/ *verb* to cancel a judgment on appeal

own /əʊn/ *verb* to have or to possess □ **a wholly-owned subsidiary** a subsidiary which belongs completely to the parent company □ **a state-owned industry** an industry which is nationalised

owner /'əʊnə/ *noun* somebody who owns something □ **goods sent at owner's risk** situation where it is the owner of the goods who has to insure them while they are being shipped

owner-occupier /ˌəʊnər 'ɒkjʊpaɪə/ *noun* somebody who owns the property which he or she occupies

ownership /'əʊnəʃɪp/ *noun* the act of owning something □ **the ownership of the company has passed to the banks** the banks have become owners of the company

oyez /əʊ'jez/ *French word meaning* 'hear!': used at the beginning of some types of official proceedings

P

pack /pæk/ *verb* to fill a group such as a committee or a jury with members who are sympathetic to your views ○ *The left-wing group packed the general purposes committee with activists.*

pact /pækt/ *noun* a formal agreement between two parties or countries ○ *The countries in the region signed a non-aggression pact.* ○ *The two minority parties signed an electoral pact not to oppose each other in specific constituencies.*

pais ◗ estoppel

palimony /'pælɪməni/ *noun* the money that a court orders a man to pay regularly to a woman with whom he has been living and from whom he has separated

pan- /pæn/ *prefix* meaning 'covering all'

pandering /'pændərɪŋ/ *noun* the crime of attempting to solicit customers for prostitutes

panel /'pæn(ə)l/ **◗ empanel**

Papal Nuncio /ˌpeɪp(ə)l 'nʌnsiəʊ/ *noun* an ambassador sent by the Pope to a country

paper /'peɪpə/ *noun* **1.** a thin material for writing on or for wrapping **2.** an outline report ○ *The Treasurer asked his deputy to write a paper on new funding.* ○ *The planning department prepared a paper for the committee on the possible uses of the site.* ◊ **Green Paper, White Paper 3.** □ **papers** documents ○ *The solicitor sent me the relevant papers on the case.* ○ *The police have sent the papers on the fraud to the Director of Public Prosecutions.* ○ *He has lost the customs papers.* ○ *The office is asking for the VAT papers.* **4.** □ **on paper** as explained in writing, but not tested in practice ○ *On paper the system is ideal, but we have to see it working before we will sign the contract.* **5.** documents such as bills of exchange or promissory notes which can represent money **6.** □ **paper money**, **paper currency** banknotes **7.** a newspaper

paper feed /'peɪpə fiːd/ *noun* a device which puts paper into a printer or copying machine

paper loss /ˌpeɪpə 'lɒs/ *noun* the loss made when an asset has fallen in value but has not been sold

paper money /ˌpeɪpə 'mʌni/ *noun* money in notes, not coins

paper profit /ˌpeɪpə 'prɒfɪt/ *noun* the profit made when an asset has increased in value but has not been sold

paralegal /ˌpærə'liːg(ə)l/ *adjective* related to, but not part of, the law ■ *noun* somebody with no legal qualifications who works in a lawyer's office

paramount /'pærəmaʊnt/ *adjective* superior

parasitic rights /ˌpærə'sɪtɪk raɪts/ *noun* (*in the EU*) the rights of persons to live in a EU country if they are dependent for their means of living on persons who have the right to reside and to have employment

pardon /'pɑːd(ə)n/ *noun* the action of forgiving an offence by a Parliament or by a monarch ■ *verb* to forgive an offence ○ *The political prisoners were pardoned by the president.*

COMMENT: Not the same as 'quashing' a conviction, which means that the conviction has been made void; both 'pardoning' and 'quashing' have the same effect.

parens patriae /ˌpærenz 'pætrɪi/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'parent of the nation', referring to a king, queen or other head of state as the sovereign

and guardian of children or people suffering from a legal disability

parent /'peərənt/ *noun* □ **parents** father and mother

parental responsibility /pə ˌrent(ə)l rɪˌspɒnsɪ'bɪlɪti/ *noun* a concept introduced by the Children's Act 1989, which encompasses all the rights, duties and responsibilities that by law a parent of a child is entitled to have. Former name **custody** (NOTE: Parental responsibility is automatically acquired by both parents if married and in cases of unmarried couples, given to the mother alone. An unmarried father is able to acquire parental responsibility by consent of the mother or by obtaining a parental responsibility order which is issued by a court.)

parent company /'peərənt ˌkʌmp(ə)ni/ *noun* a company which owns more than half of another company's shares

parentis ➧ **in loco parentis**

pari passu /ˌpæri 'pæsuː/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'equally' or 'with no distinction between them' ○ *The new shares will rank pari passu with the existing ones.*

parity /'pærɪti/ *noun* the fact of being equal □ **the female staff want parity with the men** they want to have the same rates of pay and conditions as the men □ **the pound fell to parity with the dollar** the pound fell to a point where one pound equalled one dollar

parking offence /'pɑːkɪŋ əˌfens/ *noun* an offence caused when parking a vehicle, e.g. parking on yellow lines, or too near to street corners or pedestrian crossings

parliament /'pɑːləmənt/ *noun* an elected group of representatives who form the legislative body which votes the laws of a country. In the UK, it is formed of the House of Commons and House of Lords.

parliamentary /ˌpɑːlə'ment(ə)ri/ *adjective* referring to parliament

parliamentary agent /ˌpɑːləment(ə)ri 'eɪdʒ(ə)nt/ *noun* a person, usually a solicitor or barrister, who advises private individuals who wish to promote a Bill in Parliament

Parliamentary Commissioner /ˌpɑːləˌment(ə)ri kə'mɪʃ(ə)nə/**, Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration** /ˌpɑːləment(ə)ri kəˌmɪʃ(ə)nə fər ədmɪnɪ'streɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the official who investigates complaints by the public against government departments. Also called **Ombudsman**

parliamentary counsel /ˌpɑːləment(ə)ri 'kaʊnsəl/ *noun* a solicitor who is responsible for drafting Bills going before Parliament

Parliamentary privilege /ˌpɑːləment(ə)ri 'prɪvɪlɪdʒ/ *noun* the right of a Member of Parliament or Member of the House of Lords to speak freely to the House without possibility of being sued for slander

parol /pə'rəʊl/ *adjective* done by speaking

parol agreement /pə'rəʊl ə ˌgriːmənt/ *noun* a simple contract, informal or oral contract

parole /pə'rəʊl/ *noun* **1.** allowing a prisoner to leave prison for a short time, on condition that he or she behaves well ○ *He was given a week's parole to visit his mother in hospital.* **2.** permission for a prisoner who has behaved well to be released from prison early on condition that he continues to behave well ○ *After six month's good conduct in prison she is eligible for parole.* ○ *He was let out on parole and immediately burgled a house.* ■ *verb* to allow a prisoner to leave prison before the end of their sentence on condition that he or she behaves well ○ *If you're lucky you will be paroled before Christmas.*

parole board /pə'rəʊl bɔːd/ *noun* a group of people who advise the Home Secretary if a prisoner should be released on parole before the end of his or her sentence

parolee /pə'rəʊliː/ *noun US* a prisoner who is let out on parole

parol evidence /pə'rəʊl ˌevɪdəns/ *noun* evidence given orally

part /pɑːt/ *noun* **1.** a piece or section ○ *Part of the shipment was damaged.* ○ *Part of the staff is on overtime.* ○ *Part of*

the expenses will be refunded. **2.** one of the sections of an Act, Bill, or other official document (*below*) **3.** □ **in part** not completely ○ *to contribute in part to the costs* ○ *to pay the costs in part*

Part 20 claim /ˌpɑːt 'twenti ˌkleɪm/ *noun* any claim other than a claim filed by a claimant against a defendant in the particulars of claim

COMMENT: Part 20 claims include counterclaims by a defendant against a claimant, or against other persons who are not parties to the case, or a claim by another person against any other person. These claims are dealt with under Part 20 of the new Civil Procedure Rules, hence the name.

Part 36 offer, Part 36 payment *noun* an offer or payment made by a defendant (the offeror) to a claimant (the offeree) to settle all or part of a claim after proceedings have started (these offers or payments do not apply to small claims)

parte ◗ **ex parte, inter partes, audi alteram partem**

partial /'pɑːʃ(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** not complete □ **he was awarded partial compensation for the damage to his house** he was compensated for part of the damage **2.** showing unfair support for one person or group compared with others ○ *The defendant complained that the judge was partial.*

partial defence /ˌpɑːʃ(ə)l dɪ'fens/ *noun* a defence such as self-defence which is not enough to acquit the defendant, but which can reduce their charge to a lesser one

partial intestacy /ˌpɑːʃ(ə)l ɪn 'testəsi/ *noun* a situation where a person dies leaving a will which does not cover all his or her estate

partial loss /'pɑːʃ(ə)l lɒs/ *noun* a situation where only part of the insured property has been damaged or lost

particular /pə'tɪkjʊlə/ *plural noun* **particulars 1.** detailed information about something or someone ○ *sheet which gives particulars of the items for sale* ○ *the inspector asked for particulars of the missing car* □ **to give full particulars of something** to list all the known details about something □ **request for further and better particulars** pleading served by one party on another in civil proceedings, asking for information about the other party's claim or defence **2.** a statement of the facts of a case, made by a party in civil proceedings or a County Court pleading, setting out the claimant's claim

particular average /pəˌtɪkjʊlə 'æv(ə)rɪdʒ/ *noun* a situation where part of a shipment is lost or damaged and the insurance costs are borne by the owner of the lost goods and not shared among all the owners of the shipment

particular lien /pəˌtɪkjʊlə 'liːən/ *noun* the right of a person to keep possession of another person's property until debts relating to that property have been paid

particulars /pə'tɪkjʊləz/ *plural noun* details, especially a statement of the facts of a case made by a party in civil proceedings or a County Court pleading setting out the claimant's claim ○ *Sheet which gives particulars of the items for sale.* ○ *The inspector asked for particulars of the missing car.*

particulars of claim /pəˌtɪkjʊləz əv 'kleɪm/ *noun* a document containing details of a claimant's case and the relief sought against the defendant (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has replaced **statement of claim**.)

COMMENT: Particulars of claim are usually included in the claim form filed by the claimant. They should give a statement of the facts of the claim, together with details of interest or damages claimed. They must include the following if they are to form part of the claim to be pleaded: details of fraud, illegality, breach of trust, default, or unsoundness of mind on the part of the defendant.

partition /pɑː'tɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the division of land which is held by joint tenants or tenants in common

partly-paid capital /ˌpɑːt(ə)li peɪd 'kæpɪt(ə)l/ *noun* capital which represents partly-paid shares

partly-paid up shares /ˌpɑːt(ə)li peɪd ʌp 'ʃeəz/ *plural noun* shares where the shareholders have not paid the full face value

partly-secured creditors /ˌpɑːtli sɪ ˌkjʊəd 'kredɪtəs/ *plural noun* creditors whose debts are not fully covered by the value of the security

partnership at will /ˌpɑːtnəʃɪp ət 'wɪl/ *noun* a partnership with no fixed time limit stated

part-owner /ˌpɑːt 'əʊnə/ *noun* somebody who owns something jointly with one or more other persons

part-ownership /ˌpɑːt 'əʊnəʃɪp/ *noun* a situation where two or more persons own the same property

part payment /ˌpɑːt 'peɪmənt/ *noun* the payment of part of an amount which is owed

part performance /ˌpɑːt pə 'fɔːməns/ *noun* a situation where a party has carried out part of a contract, but not complied with all the terms of it

party /'pɑːti/ *noun* **1.** a person or group of people involved in a legal dispute, legal agreement or crime ○ *One of the parties to the suit has died.* ○ *The company is not a party to the agreement.* □ **to be party to something** to be involved in a legal action ○ *How important is this case to those persons who are not party to it?* **2.** □ **a third party candidate** candidate for one of the smaller parties

party and party costs /ˌpɑːtɪ ən ˌpɑːtɪ 'kɒsts/ *plural noun* normal basis for assessment of costs which includes all costs incurred in the party's case

party wall /ˌpɑːti 'wɔːl/ *noun* a wall which separates two adjoining properties such as houses or land and belongs to both owners equally

pass /pɑːs/ *noun* a permit allowing someone to go into a building ○ *You need a pass to enter the ministry offices.* ○ *All members of staff must show their passes.* ■ *verb* **1.** to vote to approve ○ *The finance director has to pass an invoice before it is paid.* ○ *The loan has been passed by the board.* □ **to pass a resolution** to vote to agree to a resolution **2.** to vote to make a law ○ *Parliament passed the Bill which has now become law.* **3.** □ **to pass sentence on someone** to give a convicted person the official legal punishment ○ *The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the judge will pass sentence next week.* **4.** □ **to pass a dividend** to pay no dividend in a specific year

passenger manifest /ˌpæsɪndʒə 'mænɪfest/ *noun* a list of passengers on a ship or plane

passing off /ˌpɑːsɪŋ 'ɒf/ *noun* the action of trying to sell goods by giving the impression that they have been made by someone else, using that other person's reputation to make a sale

pass off /ˌpɑːs 'ɒf/ *verb* □ **to pass something off as something else** to pretend that it is another thing in order to cheat a customer

pass over /ˌpɑːs 'əʊvə/ *verb* to avoid using someone who has been appointed, and use someone else instead

COMMENT: An executor can be passed over in favour of someone else is if he has disappeared, is serving a life sentence in prison, etc.

passport /'pɑːspɔːt/ *noun* an official document proving that someone is a citizen of a country, which has to be shown when travelling from one country to another ○ *We had to show our passports at the customs post.* ○ *His passport is out of date.* ○ *The passport officer stamped my passport.*

passport holder /ˌpɑːspɔːt 'həʊldə/ *noun* somebody who holds a passport ○ *She is a British passport holder.*

passport section /ˌpɑːspɔːt 'sekʃən/ *noun* a part of an embassy which deals with passport inquiries

patent /'peɪtənt, 'pætənt/ *noun* an official document showing that a person has the exclusive right to make and sell an invention ○ *to take out a patent for a new type of light bulb* ○ *to apply for a patent for a new invention* ○ *He has received a grant of patent for his invention.* □ **patent applied for, patent pending** words on a product showing that the inventor has applied for a patent for it □ **to forfeit a patent** to lose a patent because payments have not been made □ **to infringe a patent** to make a product which works in the same way as a patented product and not pay a royalty to the patent holder □ **to file a patent application** to apply for a patent ■ *verb* □ **to patent an invention** to register an invention with the patent office to prevent other

people from copying it ■ *adjective* very obvious ○ *The prisoner's statement is a patent lie.*

COMMENT: To qualify for a patent an invention must be new and not previously disclosed, it must be an advance on previous inventions, it must be able to be manufactured and it must not involve anything excluded from patent cover. Things excluded from patent cover include scientific theories (because they are confidential information), games and computer programs (which are covered by copyrights), medical treatments, some newly developed plants, animals and other biological processes. When a patent is granted, it gives the patentee a monopoly in his invention for 20 years.

patentability /ˌpætəntəˈbɪlɪti/ *noun* the ability to be the subject of a patent

patentable /ˈpeɪtəntəb(ə)l/ *adjective* able to be the subject of a patent ○ *Computer programs are not patentable because they are covered by copyright.*

patent agent /ˈpeɪtənt ˌeɪdʒənt/ *noun* somebody who advises on patents and applies for patents on behalf of clients

patent defect /ˌpeɪtənt dɪˈfekt/ *noun* an obvious defect

patented /ˈpeɪtəntɪd, ˈpætəntɪd/ *adjective* being protected by a patent

patentee /ˌpeɪtənˈtiː/ *noun* somebody who has been granted a patent

patent examiner /ˌpeɪtənt ɪgˈzæmɪnə/ *noun* an official who checks patent applications to see if the inventions are really new

patent holder /ˌpeɪtənt ˈhəʊldə/ *noun* somebody who has been granted a patent

patent number /ˌpeɪtənt ˈnʌmbə/ *noun* a reference number given to a patented invention

patent office /ˈpeɪtənt ˌɒfɪs/ *noun* a government office which grants patents and supervises them

patent pending /ˌpeɪtənt ˈpendɪŋ/ *noun* a phrase printed on a product to show that its inventor has applied for a grant of patent but has not yet received it

patent proprietor /ˌpeɪtənt prəˈpraɪətə/ *noun* a person who holds a patent

patent rights /ˈpeɪtənt raɪts/ *plural noun* rights which an inventor holds under a patent

patent specification /ˌpeɪtənt ˌspesɪfɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the full details of an invention which is the subject of a patent application

paternity /pəˈtɜːnɪti/ *noun* **1.** the action of being a father **2.** the moral right of a copyright holder to be identified as the creator of the work

paternity action /pəˌtɜːnɪti ˈækʃən/**, suit** /suːt/ *noun* a lawsuit brought by the mother of an illegitimate child to force the putative father to maintain the child

paternity leave /məˈtɜːnɪti liːv/ *noun* a period when a man is away from work because his partner is about to have, or has had a baby

pathologist /pəˈθɒlədʒɪst/ *noun* a doctor who specialises in pathology, especially a doctor who examines corpses to find out the cause of death

patrial /ˈpeɪtriəl/ *noun* a person who has the right to live in the UK because they has close family ties with the country such a grandparent being British

patricide /ˈpætrɪsaɪd/ *noun* the murder of your own father

Patriot Act /ˈpætriət ˌækt/ *noun* in the USA, a set of federal anti-terrorism measures that allows lower standards of probable cause to be accepted for obtaining intelligence warrants against suspected spies and terrorists

patrol /pəˈtrəʊl/ *noun* a group of people who walk through an area to see what is happening □ **a police patrol** group of policemen who are patrolling an area □ **on patrol** walking through an area to see what is happening ○ *We have six squad cars on patrol in the centre of the town.* □ **on foot patrol** patrolling an area on foot, not in a car ■ *verb* to walk regularly through an area to see what is happening ○ *Groups of riot police were patrolling the centre of the town.*

patrol car /pəˈtrəʊl kɑː/ *noun* a car used by police on patrol

patrolman /pəˈtrəʊlmən/ *noun US* the lowest rank of policeman ○ *Patrolman Jones was at the scene of the accident.*

patronage secretary /ˌpætrənɪdʒ 'sekrət(ə)ri/ *noun* an official of the Prime Minister's staff who deals with appointments to posts

pauperis ➧ **in forma pauperis**

pawn /pɔːn/ *verb* □ **to pawn a watch** to leave a watch with a pawnbroker who gives a loan against it

pawnshop /'pɔːnʃɒp/ *noun* a pawnbroker's shop

pawn ticket /'pɔːn ˌtɪkɪt/ *noun* a receipt given by the pawnbroker for the object left in pawn

pay /peɪ/ *noun* a salary, wage, or money given to someone for work done ■ *verb* **1.** to give money to buy an item or a service □ **to pay in advance** to give money before you receive the item bought or before the service has been completed □ **to pay in instalments** to give money for an item by giving small amounts regularly □ **to pay cash** to pay the complete sum in cash □ **to pay costs** to pay the costs of a court case □ **to pay on demand** to pay money when it is asked for, not after a period of credit □ **to pay a dividend** to give shareholders a part of the profits of a company □ **to pay interest** to give money as interest on money borrowed or invested **2.** to give an employee money for work done ○ *The employees have not been paid for three weeks.* ○ *We pay good wages for skilled employees.* ○ *How much do they pay you per hour?* □ **to be paid by the hour** to get money for each hour worked □ **to be paid at piece-work rates** to get money calculated on the number of pieces of work finished

payable /'peɪəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being due to be paid □ **payable in advance** being payable before the goods are delivered □ **payable on delivery** being payable when the goods are delivered □ **payable on demand** being payable when payment is asked for □ **payable at sixty days** being payable by sixty days after the date of invoice □ **cheque made payable to bearer** cheque which will be paid to the person who has it, not to any particular name written on it □ **shares payable on application** shares which must be paid for when you apply to buy them □ **electricity charges are payable by the tenant** the tenant (and not the landlord) must pay for the electricity

pay as you earn /ˌpeɪ əz jʊ 'ɜːn/ *noun* a tax system by which income tax is deducted from the salary before it is paid to the worker. Abbreviation **PAYE** (NOTE: The US term is **pay-as-you-go**.)

pay-as-you-go /ˌpeɪ əz juː 'gəʊ/ *noun* **1.** *US* same as **pay as you earn 2.** a system of summarily assessing costs in a trial

pay back /ˌpeɪ 'bæk/ *verb* to give money back to someone ○ *I lent her £50 and she promised to pay me back in a month.* ○ *He has never paid me back the money he borrowed.*

payback /'peɪbæk/ *noun* the repayment of money which has been borrowed

payback clause /'peɪbæk klɔːz/ *noun* a clause in a contract which states the terms for repaying a loan

payback period /'peɪbæk ˌpɪərɪəd/ *noun* the period of time over which a loan is to be repaid or an investment is to pay for itself

pay cheque /'peɪ tʃek/ *noun* a salary cheque given to an employee (NOTE: The US term is **paycheck**.)

pay down /ˌpeɪ 'daʊn/ *verb* □ **to pay money down** to make a deposit ○ *He paid £50 down and the rest in monthly instalments.*

PAYE *abbreviation* pay as you earn

payee /peɪ'iː/ *noun* somebody who receives money from someone, the person whose name is on a cheque or bill of exchange

pay in /ˌpeɪ 'ɪn/**, into** /'ɪntə, 'ɪntʊ, 'ɪntuː/ *verb* □ **to pay in**, **to pay money into court** (*of a defendant*) to deposit money with the court at the beginning of a case, to try to satisfy the claimant's claim

COMMENT: If at trial the claimant fails to recover more than the amount the defendant has paid in, he will have to pay the defendant's costs from the date of the payment in.

paying party /ˌpeɪɪŋ 'pɑːti/ *noun* the party in a case who is liable to pay costs (NOTE: The other party is the **receiving party**.)

payment /'peɪmənt/ *noun* **1.** the transfer of money from one person to another to satisfy a debt or obligation ○ *payment in cash* or *cash payment* ○ *payment by cheque* □ **payment on account** paying part of the money owed before a bill is delivered ○ *The solicitor asked for a payment of £100 on account.* □ **payment on invoice** paying money as soon as an invoice is received **2.** money paid

payment into court /ˌpeɪmənt 'ɪntə kɔːt/ *noun* the depositing of money by the defendant into the court before the case starts, to try to satisfy the claimant's claim

pay negotiations /'peɪ nɪgəʊʃi ˌeɪʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* discussions between employers and employees about pay increases

pay off /ˌpeɪ 'ɒf/ *verb* **1.** to finish paying money which is owed ○ *to pay off a mortgage* ○ *to pay off a loan* **2.** to pay all the money owed to someone and terminate his or her employment ○ *When the company was taken over the factory was closed and all the employees were paid off.*

payoff /'peɪɒf/ *noun* money paid to finish paying something which is owed

pay restraint /'peɪ rɪˌstreɪnt/ *noun* the activity of keeping increases in wages under control

pay up /ˌpeɪ 'ʌp/ *verb* to give money which is owed ○ *The company paid up only when we sent them a letter from our solicitor.* ○ *He finally paid up six months late.*

PC *abbreviation* police constable *or* Privy Council *or* Privy Councillor (NOTE: The plural is **PCs**.)

PDs *abbreviation* practice directions

pecuniary /pɪ'kjuːniəri/ *adjective* referring to money □ **obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception** crime of tricking someone into handing over money □ **he gained no pecuniary advantage** he made no financial gain

pecuniary default judgment /pɪ ˌkjuːniəri dɪˌfɔːlt 'dʒʌdʒmənt/ *noun* a judgment without trial against a defendant who fails to respond to a claim, which gives the claimant the money claimed including interest

pecuniary legacy /pɪˌkjuːniəri 'legəsi/ *noun* a legacy in the form of money

pedestrian precinct /pəˌdestriən 'priːsɪŋkt/ *noun* part of a town which is closed to traffic so that people can walk about and shop

peer group /'pɪə ˌgruːp/ *noun* a group of persons of the same level or rank ○ *The Magna Carta gave every person the right to be tried by his or her peers.* ○ *Children try to behave like other members of their peer group.*

penal /'piːn(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to punishment

penal code /'piːn(ə)l kəʊd/ *noun* a set of laws governing crime and its punishment

penal colony /ˌpiːn(ə)l 'kɒləni/ *noun* a prison camp in a distant place, where prisoners are sent for long periods

penal institution /'piːn(ə)l ˌɪnstɪtjuːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a place such as a prison where convicted criminals are kept

penalise /'piːnəlaɪz/, **penalize** *verb* to punish someone for doing something wrong, especially by fining them ○ *to penalise a supplier for late deliveries* ○ *They were penalised for bad service.*

penal laws /'piːn(ə)l lɔːs/ *plural noun* system of punishments relating to different crimes

penal servitude /ˌpiːn(ə)l 'sɜːvɪtjuːd/ *noun* a former punishment by imprisonment with hard labour

penal system /ˌpiːn(ə)l 'sɪstəm/ *noun* same as **penal laws**

penalty /'pen(ə)lti/ *noun* a punishment such as a fine which is imposed if something is not done or if a law is not obeyed ○ *The penalty for carrying an offensive weapon is a fine of £2,000 and three months in prison.*

COMMENT: Penalty clauses in a contract are sometimes unenforceable.

penalty clause /'pen(ə)lti klɔːz/ *noun* a clause which lists the penalties which will be imposed if the terms of the contract are not fulfilled

pendens ➧ **lis pendens**

pendente lite /penˌdenteɪ 'laɪteɪ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'during the lawsuit.' ◊ **alimony**

pending /'pendɪŋ/ *adjective* waiting

pending action /ˌpendɪŋ 'ækʃən/ *noun* an action concerned with land which has not been heard

pending suit /'pendɪŋ suːt/ *noun* while a lawsuit is being heard

penitentiary /ˌpenɪ'tenʃəri/ *noun US* a large prison ○ *the Pennsylvania State Penitentiary*

penology /piː'nɒlədʒi/ *noun* the study of sentences in relation to crimes

pensionable age /ˌpenʃənəb(ə)l 'eɪdʒ/ *noun* the age after which someone can take a pension

pension contributions /'penʃən kɒntrɪˌbjuːʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* money paid by a company or employee into a pension fund

pension entitlement /'penʃən ɪnˌtaɪt(ə)lmənt/ *noun* the amount of pension which someone has the right to receive when he or she retires

pension fund /'penʃən fʌnd/ *noun* money which provides pensions for retired members of staff

pension plan /'penʃən plæn/ *noun* a plan worked out by an insurance company which arranges for an employee to pay part of his or her salary over many years and receive a regular payment on retirement

peppercorn rent /ˌpepəkɔːn 'rent/ *noun* a very small or nominal rent ○ *to pay a peppercorn rent* ○ *to lease a property for* or *at a peppercorn rent*

per annum /pər 'ænəm/ *adverb* in each year ○ *The rent is £2,500 per annum.* ○ *What is their turnover per annum?*

per autre vie /ˌpɜːr ˌəʊtrə 'viː/ *phrase* a French phrase meaning 'for the lifetime of another person'

per capita /pə 'kæpɪtə/ *adjective, adverb* **1.** divided among beneficiaries individually. Compare **per stirpes 2.** for each person □ **per capita expenditure** total money spent divided by the number of people involved

percentage increase /pəˌsentɪdʒ 'ɪnkriːs/ *noun* an increase in costs above base costs, which is negotiated as part of a conditional fee agreement

per contra /ˌpɜː 'kɒntrə/ *noun* a phrase that shows that a contra entry has been made

per curiam /pɜː 'kjuːriəm/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'by a court': a decision correctly made by a court, which can be used as a precedent

per diem /ˌpɜː 'diːem/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'for each day'

peremptory challenge /pəˌrempt(ə)ri 'tʃælɪndʒ/ *noun* an objection made about a juror without stating any reason

perfect right /ˌpɜːfɪkt 'raɪt/ *noun* a correct and legally acceptable right

perform /pə'fɔːm/ *verb* to carry out a task or duty, or something which is required in a contract

performance /pə'fɔːməns/ *noun* **1.** the way in which someone or something acts □ **the poor performance of the shares on the stock market** the fall in the share price on the stock market □ **as a measure of the company's performance** as a way of judging if the company's results are good or bad □ **performance of personnel against objectives** how personnel have worked, measured against the objectives set **2.** the activity of carrying out of something, such as a duty or the terms of a contract □ **they were asked to put up a £1m performance bond** they were asked to deposit £1m as a guarantee that they would carry out the terms of the contract

performance review /pə'fɔːməns rɪˌvjuː/ *noun* a yearly interview between an employer and each employee to discuss how the employee has worked during the year

performing right /pə'fɔːmɪŋ raɪt/ *noun* the right to allow the playing of a copyright piece of music

peril /'perɪl/ *noun* danger, especially a possible accident covered by an insurance policy □ **perils of the sea, maritime perils** accidents which can happen at sea

per incuriam /ˌpɜː ɪnˈkjuːriəm/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'because of lack of care': a decision wrongly made by a court which does not therefore set a precedent

periodic /ˌpɪəriˈɒdɪk/, **periodical** /ˌpɪəriˈɒdɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* happening regularly from time to time

periodical payments /ˌpɪəriɒdɪk(ə)l ˈpeɪmənts/ *plural noun* regular payments, e.g. maintenance paid to a divorced spouse

periodic tenancy /ˌpɪəriɒdɪk ˈtenənsi/ *noun* a tenancy where the tenant rents for several short periods but not for a fixed length of time

period of notice /ˌpɪəriəd əv ˈnəʊtɪs/ *noun* the time stated in the contract of employment which the employee or company has to allow between resigning or being fired and the employee actually leaving his or her job

period of qualification /ˌpɪəriəd əv kwɒlɪfɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the time which has to pass before something qualifies for something

period of validity /ˌpɪəriəd əv və ˈlɪdɪti/ *noun* the length of time for which a document is valid

perjure /ˈpɜːdʒə/ *verb* □ **to perjure yourself** to tell lies when you have made an oath to say what is true

perjury /ˈpɜːdʒəri/ *noun* the notifiable offence of telling lies when you have made an oath to say what is true in court ○ *He was sent to prison for perjury.* ○ *She appeared in court on a charge of perjury* or *on a perjury charge.*

permissive waste /pəˌmɪsɪv ˈweɪst/ *noun* damage to a property which is caused by a tenant not carrying out repairs

permit *noun* /ˈpɜːmɪt/ an official document which allows someone to do something ■ *verb* /pəˈmɪt/ to allow someone to do something ○ *This document permits the export of twenty-five computer systems.* ○ *The ticket permits three people to go into the exhibition.*

per my et per tout /pɜː maɪ ˌiː ˈtiː taʊt/ *phrase* a French phrase meaning 'by half and by all': used to indicate the relationship between joint tenants

perpetrate /ˈpɜːpɪtreɪt/ *verb* to commit a crime

perpetrator /ˈpɜːpɪtreɪtə/ *noun* a person who does something harmful or dishonest, especially a person who commits a crime

perpetuity /ˌpɜːpɪtˈjuːɪti/ *noun* □ **in perpetuity** for ever

per pro /pə ˈprəʊ/ *abbreviation* per procurationem □ **the secretary signed per pro the manager** the secretary signed on behalf of, and with the authority of, the manager

per procurationem /pə ˌprɒkjʊræsɪ ˈəʊnəm/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'with the authority of'

per quod /pɜː ˈkwɒd/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'by which' or 'whereby'

per se /ˌpɜː ˈseɪ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'on its own' or 'alone'

persistent offender /pəˌsɪstənt əˈfendə/ *noun* a person who has been convicted of a crime at least three times before and is likely to commit the crime again

person /ˈpɜːs(ə)n/ *noun* a man or woman ○ *insurance policy which covers a named person* □ **the persons named in the contract** people whose names are given in the contract □ **the document should be witnessed by a third person** someone who is not named in the document should witness it □ **in person** someone himself or herself □ **this important package is to be delivered to the chairman in person** the package has to be given to the chairman himself (and not to his secretary, assistant, etc.) □ **he came to see me in person** he himself came to see me

persona /pəˈsəʊnə/ *noun* something such as a company which has property

personal /ˈpɜːs(ə)n(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** referring to one person □ **personal service** the act of giving legal documents to someone as part of a legal action, e.g. serving someone with a writ **2.** private ○ *I want to see the director on a personal matter.*

personal action /ˌpɜːs(ə)n(ə)l ˈækʃən/ *noun* **1.** a legal action brought by a person himself or herself **2.** com-

mon law term for an action against a person arising out of a contract or tort

personal allowances /ˌpɜːs(ə)n(ə)l əˈlaʊənsɪz/ *plural noun* part of a person's income which is not taxed ○ *allowances against tax* or *tax allowances*

personal assets /ˌpɜːs(ə)n(ə)l ˈæsets/ *plural noun* moveable assets which belong to a person

personal assistant /ˌpɜːs(ə)n(ə)l əˈsɪstənt/ *noun* a secretary who can take on responsibility in various ways when the boss is not there

personal chattels /ˌpɜːs(ə)n(ə)l ˈtʃæt(ə)lz/ *noun* household things such furniture, clothes, or cars which belong to a person and which are not land

personal conduct /ˌpɜːs(ə)n(ə)l kənˈdʌkt/ *noun* (*in the EU*) the way in which a person acts in society

COMMENT: Personal conduct can be used as a reason for excluding a national of another EU state from entering a country and taking up work.

personal effects /ˌpɜːs(ə)n(ə)l ɪˈfekts/ *plural noun* personal belongings

personal estate /ˌpɜːs(ə)n(ə)l ɪˈsteɪt/ *noun* the set of things, excluding land, which belong to someone and can be inherited by their heirs

personal income /ˌpɜːs(ə)n(ə)l ˈɪnkʌm/ *noun* income received by an individual person before tax is paid

personal injury /ˌpɜːs(ə)n(ə)l ˈɪndʒəri/ *noun* injury to the body suffered by the victim of an accident

personality /ˌpɜːsəˈnælɪti/ *noun* the qualities of mind and spirit which make one person different from another

personal property /ˌpɜːs(ə)n(ə)l ˈprɒpəti/ *noun* property which belongs to one person, excluding land and buildings, but including money, goods, securities, etc.

personal representative /ˌpɜːs(ə)n(ə)l ˌreprɪˈzentətɪv/ *noun* **1.** a person who is the executor of a will or the administrator of the estate of a deceased person. Abbreviation **pr 2.** a person appointed to deal with the estate of a person who dies intestate

COMMENT: A personal representative can be the executor of the estate, usually appointed by the deceased person in the will, or an administrator who is appointed to deal with the estate of a deceased person who died intestate, or who did not appoint an executor in the will. The personal representative holds the property on trust, pays any liabilities and expenses, and invests money until such time as the estate is distributed.

personalty /ˈpɜːs(ə)n(ə)lti/ *noun* personal property or chattels as opposed to land

personam ➧ **action**

persona non grata /pəˌsəʊnə nɒn ˈgrɑːtə/ *noun* a foreign person who is not acceptable to a government (*used especially of diplomats*)

personation /ˌpɜːsəˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the crime of fraudulently pretending to be someone else

person injuries /ˈpɜːs(ə)n ˌɪndʒəriz/ *noun* injuries to a person caused by disease which impair that person's mental or physical condition

person-to-person call /ˌpɜːs(ə)n tə ˈpɜːs(ə)n kɔːl/ *noun* a call where you ask the operator to connect you with a named person

per stirpes /pɜː ˈstɜːpiːz/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'by branches': phrase used in wills where the entitlement is divided among branches of a family rather than among individuals (which is 'per capita')

persuasive precedent /pəˌsweɪsɪv ˈpresɪd(ə)nt/, **persuasive authority** /pəˌsweɪsɪv ɔːˈθɒrəti/ *noun* precedent which a judge is not obliged to follow but is of importance in reaching a judgment, as opposed to a binding precedent

pertain /pəˈteɪn/ *verb* □ **to pertain to** to refer to or to relate to ○ *the law pertaining to public order*

perverse verdict /pəˌvɜːs ˈvɜːdɪkt/ *noun* a verdict by a jury which goes against what anyone would usually feel to be the right decision, or which goes against the direction of the judge

pervert /pəˈvɜːt/ *verb* to change or to interfere □ **to attempt to pervert the course of justice** to try to influence the outcome of a trial by tampering with the evidence, bribing the jurors, etc.

COMMENT: Perverting the course of justice is a notifiable offence.

petition /pə'tɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a written application to a court □ **to file a petition in bankruptcy** to ask officially to be made bankrupt, to ask officially for someone else to be made bankrupt **2.** a written request accompanied by a list of signatures of people supporting it ○ *They presented a petition with a million signatures to Parliament, asking for the law to be repealed.* ■ *verb* to make an official request ○ *He petitioned the government for a special pension.* ○ *The marriage had broken down and the wife petitioned for divorce.*

COMMENT: Petitions to the House of Commons are written by hand, and have a set form of words. After a petition is presented in the House of Commons at the beginning of the day's business, it is said to 'lie upon the table' and is placed in a bag behind the Speaker's Chair.

petitioner /pə'tɪʃ(ə)nə/ *noun* somebody who puts forward a petition

petty /'peti/ *adjective* not important

petty cash /ˌpeti 'kæʃ/ *noun* a small amount of money kept in an office to make small purchases

petty crime /ˌpeti 'kraɪm/ *noun* small crimes which are not very serious

petty jury /ˌpeti 'dʒʊəri/ *noun mainly US* an ordinary jury of twelve jurors

petty larceny /ˌpeti 'lɑːs(ə)ni/ *noun* minor thefts

petty-sessional division /ˌpeti ˌseʃ(ə)n(ə) dɪ'vɪʒ(ə)n/, **petty sessions area** /ˌpeti ˌseʃ(ə)nz 'eəriə/ *noun* an area of the country covered by a magistrates' courts committee for administration purposes

COMMENT: England and Wales are divided into 45 petty sessions areas.

petty sessions /ˌpeti 'seʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* magistrates' court

petty theft /ˌpeti 'θeft/ *noun* the theft of small items or small amounts of money

petty thief /ˌpeti 'θiːf/ *noun* somebody who steals small items or small amounts of money (NOTE: The plural is **thieves**.)

Photofit /'fəʊtəʊfɪt/ a trademark for a method of making a picture of a criminal from descriptions given by witnesses, using pieces of photographs of different types of faces ○ *The police issued an Photofit picture of the mugger.*

picker /'pɪkə/ *noun* a person in a team of pickpockets who performs the act of picking the victim's pocket while the others cause distractions (*slang*) Compare **runner**

picket line /'pɪkɪt laɪn/ *noun* a line of pickets at the gate of a factory

pickpocket /'pɪkpɒkɪt/ *noun* somebody who steals things from people's pockets

pilfer /'pɪlfə/ *verb* to steal small objects or small amounts of money

pilferage /'pɪlfərɪdʒ, 'pɪlfərɪŋ/, **pilfering** /'pɪlfərɪŋ/ *noun* the offence of stealing small amounts of money or small items

pilferer /'pɪlfərə/ *noun* somebody who steals small objects or small amounts of money

pimp /pɪmp/ *noun* a man who organises prostitutes and lives off their earnings

pinch /pɪntʃ/ *verb* (*informal*) **1.** to steal **2.** to arrest

piracy /'paɪrəsi/ *noun* **1.** a robbery at sea, by attacking ships **2.** the activity of copying patented inventions or copyright works ○ *laws to ban book piracy*

pirate /'paɪrət/ *noun* **1.** somebody who attacks a ship at sea to steal cargo **2.** somebody who copies a patented invention or a copyright work and sells it ○ *a pirate copy of a book* □ **pirate radio station** a radio station which broadcasts without a licence from outside a country's territorial waters ■ *verb* to copy a copyright work ○ *a pirated book* or *a pirated design* ○ *The drawings for the new dress collection were pirated in the Far East.*

pith and marrow /ˌpɪθ ən 'mærəʊ/ *noun* the doctrine that a patent can be applied to separate parts of an invention or process as well as to a single invention itself

placement /'pleɪsmənt/ *noun* the activity of finding work for someone

place of performance /ˌpleɪs əv pə ˈfɔːməns/ *noun* a place where a contract is to be performed

place of work /ˌpleɪs əv ˈwɜːk/ *noun* an office, factory or other premises where people work

placing /ˈpleɪsɪŋ/ *noun* □ **the placing of a line of shares** finding a buyer for a large number of shares in a new company or a company which is going public

plagiarise /ˈpleɪdʒəraɪz/**, plagiarize** *verb* to copy the text of a work created by someone else and pass it off as your own

plagiarism /ˈpleɪdʒərɪz(ə)m/ *noun* the activity of copying the text of a work created by someone else and passing it off as your own

plainclothes /ˈpleɪnkləʊðz/ *adjective* (*of a police officer*) working in ordinary clothes, not in uniform ○ *A group of plainclothes police went into the house.* ○ *A plainclothes detective travelled on the train.*

plaint /ˈpleɪnt/ *noun* a claim brought by one party (the claimant) against another party (the defendant)

plaintiff /ˈpleɪntɪf/ *noun* somebody who starts an action against someone in the civil courts. Compare **defendant** (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has been replaced by **claimant**.)

plaint note /ˈpleɪnt nəʊt/ *noun* a note issued by a County Court at the beginning of a County Court action

planned economy /ˌplænd ɪ ˈkɒnəmi/ *noun* a system where the government plans all business activity

planning authority /ˈplænɪŋ ɔː ˌθɒrəti/ *noun* a local body which gives permission for changes to be made to existing buildings or for new use of land

planning department /ˈplænɪŋ dɪ ˌpɑːtmənt/ *noun* a section of a local government office which deals with requests for planning permission

planning inquiry /ˈplænɪŋ ɪn ˌkwaɪri/ *noun* a hearing before a government inspector relating to the decision of a local authority in planning matters

planning permission /ˈplænɪŋ pə ˌmɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an official document allowing a person or company to plan new buildings on empty land or to alter existing buildings □ **outline planning permission** general permission to build a property on a piece of land, but not the final approval because there are no details given ○ *he was refused planning permission* ○ *we are waiting for planning permission before we can start building* ○ *the land is to be sold with outline planning permission for four houses*

plant /plɑːnt/ *verb* □ **to plant evidence** to put items at the scene of a crime after the crime has taken place, so that a person is incriminated and can be arrested

plastic bullet /ˌplæstɪk ˈbʊlɪt/ *noun* a thick bullet made of plastic fired from a special gun, used by the police only in self-defence. Also called **baton round**

plea /pliː/ *noun* **1.** in civil law, an answer made by a defendant to the case presented by the claimant **2.** in criminal law, a statement made by a person accused in court in answer to the charge □ **to enter a plea of not guilty** to answer the charge by stating that you are not guilty

plea bargaining /ˈpliː ˌbɑːgɪnɪŋ/ *noun* an arrangement where the accused pleads guilty to some charges and the prosecution drops other charges. ◊ **dilatory**

plead /pliːd/ *verb* **1.** to make an allegation in legal proceedings ○ *If fraud is to be pleaded as part of a claim, details of it must be given in the particulars of claim.* **2.** to answer a charge in a criminal court □ **fit to plead** mentally capable of being tried □ **to plead guilty** to say at the beginning of a trial that you did commit the crime of which you are accused □ **to plead not guilty** to say at the beginning of a trial that you did not commit the crime of which you are accused **3.** to speak on behalf of a client in court

pleader /ˈpliːdə/ *noun* somebody who pleads a case in court ○ *The pleader of the defence must deal with each allegation made in the particulars of claim.*

pleading /ˈpliːdɪŋ/ *noun* the action of speaking in court on someone's behalf

pleadings /ˈpliːdɪŋz/ *plural noun* documents setting out the claim of the claimant or the defence of the defendant, or giving the arguments which the two sides

will use in proceedings ○ *The damage is itemised in the pleading.* ○ *The judge found that the claimant's pleadings disclosed no cause of action.* ○ *Pleadings must be submitted to the court when the action is set down for trial.* (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has been replaced by **statements of case**.)

plea in mitigation /ˌpliː ɪn ˌmɪtɪ 'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a statement in court on behalf of a guilty party to persuade the court to impose a lenient sentence

pleasure /'pleʒə/ ➧ **Her Majesty's pleasure**

pledge /pledʒ/ *noun* **1.** the transfer of objects or documents to someone as security for a loan **2.** an object given by someone such as a pawnbroker as security for a loan □ **to redeem a pledge** to pay back a loan and interest and so get back the security ■ *verb* □ **to pledge share certificates** to deposit share certificates with the lender as security for money borrowed

pledgee /ˌpledʒ'iː/ *noun* somebody who receives objects or documents as security for money lent

pledger /'pledʒə/ *noun* somebody who gives objects or documents as security for money borrowed

plenary /'pliːnəri/ *adjective* full or complete

plenipotentiary /ˌplenɪpə'tenʃəri/ *noun* an official person acting on behalf of a government in international affairs

PLP *abbreviation* Parliamentary Labour Party

pluralism /'plʊərəlɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a system allowing different political or religious groups to exist in the same society

pluralist state /ˌplʊərəlɪst 'steɪt/ *noun* a state where various political pressure groups can exist and exert influence over the government

PM *abbreviation* Prime Minister

p.m. /ˌpiː'em/, **post meridiem** *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'after 12 o'clock midday' ○ *The train leaves at 6.50 p.m.* ○ *If you phone New York after 6 p.m. the calls are at a cheaper rate.*

PO *abbreviation* post office

poaching /'pəʊtʃɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** the crime of killing game which belongs to another person or trespassing on someone's land to kill game **2.** the activity of persuading employees to work for another company, or to leave one trade union and join another

pocket veto /ˌpɒkɪt 'viːtəʊ/ *noun US* a veto by the President of a bill after Congress has adjourned

COMMENT: Normally the President has ten days to object to a bill which has been passed to him by Congress; if Congress adjourns during that period, the President's veto kills the bill.

point /pɔɪnt/ *noun* a question relating to a matter □ **to take a point** to agree that the point made by another speaker is correct □ **point taken**, **I take your point** I agree that what you say is valid □ **in point of fact** really or actually

COMMENT: When raising a point of order, a member will say: 'on a point of order, Mr. Chairman', and the Chairman should stop the discussion to hear what the person raising the point wishes to say.

point duty /'pɔɪnt ˌdjuːti/ *noun* the work of a policeman or traffic warden to direct the traffic at crossroads

point of fact /ˌpɔɪnt əv 'fækt/ *noun* a question which has to be decided regarding the facts of a case

point of law /ˌpɔɪnt əv 'lɔː/ *noun* a question relating to the law as applied to a case ○ *Counsel raised a point of law.* ○ *The case illustrates an interesting point of legal principle.*

point of order /ˌpɔɪnt əv 'ɔːdə/ *noun* a question relating to the way in which a meeting is being conducted ○ *He raised a point of order.* ○ *On a point of order, Mr Chairman, can this committee approve its own accounts?* ○ *The meeting was adjourned on a point of order.*

poison /'pɔɪz(ə)n/ *noun* a substance which can kill if eaten or drunk ○ *She killed the old lady by putting poison in her tea.* ■ *verb* to kill someone, or make them very ill, using poison ○ *He was not shot, he was poisoned.*

poison-pen letter /ˌpɔɪz(ə)n pen 'letə/ *noun* an anonymous letter containing defamatory allegations about someone

police /pə'liːs/ *noun* a group of people who keep law and order in a country or town ○ *The police have cordoned off the town centre.* ○ *The government is relying on the police to keep law and order during the elections.* ○ *The bank robbers were picked up by the police at the railway station.*

COMMENT: Under English law, a policeman is primarily an ordinary citizen who has certain powers at common law and by statute. The police are organized by area, each area functioning independently with its own police force. London, and the area round London, is policed by the Metropolitan Police Force under the direct supervision of the Home Secretary. Outside London, each police force is answerable to a local police authority, although day-to-day control of operations is vested entirely in the Chief Constable.

police authority /pəˌliːs ɔː'θɒrɪti/ *noun* a local committee which supervises a local police force

police bail /pəˌliːs 'beɪl/ *noun* bail granted by the police from police custody

Police Commissioner /pəˌliːs kə 'mɪʃ(ə)nə/ *noun* the highest rank in some police forces

Police Community Support Officer /pəˌliːs kəˌmjuːnɪti sə'pɔːt ˌɒfɪsə/ *noun* a person whose job is to patrol the streets, especially in cities, providing assistance to the public, dealing with incidents of nuisance and anti-social behaviour which don't require full police powers, and issuing some fixed penalty notices to offenders. Abbreviation **PCSO**. Also called **community support officer**

Police Complaints Board /pəˌliːs kəm'pleɪnts ˌbɔːd/ *noun* a group which investigates complaints made by members of the public against the police

Police Complaints Committee /pəˌliːs kəm'pleɪnts kəˌmɪti/ *noun* a group of people who investigate complaints made by members of the public against the police

police constable /pə'liːs ˌkʌnstəb(ə)l/ *noun* an ordinary member of the police ○ *Police Constables Smith and Jones are on patrol.* ○ *Woman Police Constable MacIntosh was at the scene of the accident.* (NOTE: usually abbreviated to **PC** and **WPC**)

police cordon /pəˌliːs 'kɔːd(ə)n/ *noun* a line of barriers and police officers put round an area to prevent anyone moving in or out of the area

police court /pə'liːs kɔːt/ *noun* a magistrates' court

police force /pə'liːs fɔːs/ *noun* a group of policemen organised in a certain area ○ *The members of several local police forces have collaborated in the murder hunt.* ○ *The London police force is looking for more recruits.* ◊ **detective, Metropolitan Police**

COMMENT: The ranks in a British police force are: **Police Constable, Police Sergeant, Inspector, Chief Inspector, Superintendent, Chief Superintendent, Assistant Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable and Chief Constable**.

police headquarters /pəˌliːs hed 'kwɔːtəz/ *noun* the main offices of a police force

police inspector /pəˌliːs ɪn'spektə/ *noun* a rank in the police force above a sergeant

policeman /pə'liːsmən/ *noun* a man who is a member of the police (NOTE: The plural is **policemen**.)

police officer /pə'liːs ˌɒfɪsə/ *noun* a member of the police

police precinct /pəˌliːs 'priːsɪŋ(k)t/ *noun US* a section of a town with its own police station

police protection /pəˌliːs prə 'tekʃən/ *noun* the services of the police to protect someone who might be harmed ○ *The minister was given police protection.*

police sergeant /pəˌliːs 'sɑːdʒənt/ *noun* a rank in the police force above constable and below inspector

police station /pə'liːs ˌsteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a local office of a police force

police superintendent /pəˌliːs ˌsuːpərɪn'tendənt/ *noun* a high rank in a police force, above Chief Inspector and below Chief Superintendent

policewoman /pə'liːswʊmən/ *noun* a female member of a police force (NOTE: The plural is **policewomen**.)

policing /pə'liːsɪŋ/ *noun* the activity of keeping law and order in a place, using the police force

policy holder /'pɒlɪsi ˌhəʊldə/ *noun* somebody who is insured by an insurance company

political crime /pəˌlɪtɪk(ə)l 'kraɪm/ *noun* a crime such as an assassination committed for a political reason

political prisoner /pəˌlɪtɪk(ə)l 'prɪz(ə)nə/ *noun* a person kept in prison because he or she is an opponent of the political party in power

poll /pəʊl/ *noun* □ **she changed her name by deed poll** she executed a legal document to change her name ■ *verb* □ **to poll a sample of the population** to ask a sample group of people what they feel about something □ **to poll the members of the club on an issue** to ask the members for their opinion on an issue

poll tax /'pəʊl tæks/ *noun* a tax levied equally on each adult member of the population. ◊ **community charge**

pollutant /pə'luːt(ə)nt/ *noun* a substance or agent which pollutes ○ *Discharge pipes take pollutants away from the coastal area into the sea.*

pollute /pə'luːt/ *verb* to discharge harmful substances into the environment naturally, accidentally or deliberately

polluter /pə'luːtə/ *noun* a person or company which causes pollution ○ *Certain industries are major polluters of the environment.*

polluter pays principle /pəˌluːtə 'peɪz ˌprɪnsəp(ə)l/ *noun* the principle that if pollution occurs, the person or company responsible should be required to pay for the consequences of the pollution and for avoiding it in future

pollution /pə'luːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the presence of harmful substances in the environment, especially when produced by human activity

COMMENT: Pollution is caused by natural sources or by human action. It can be caused by a volcanic eruption or by a nuclear power station. Pollutants are not only chemical substances, but can be a noise from a grinding works or an unpleasant smell from a sewage farm.

pollution charges /pə'luːʃ(ə)n tʃɑːdʒɪz/ *plural noun* cost of repairing or stopping environmental pollution

pollution control /pə'luːʃ(ə)n kən ˌtrəʊl/ *noun* a means of limiting pollution

polygamous /pə'lɪgəməs/ *adjective* referring to polygamy □ **a polygamous society** a society where men are allowed to be married to more than one wife at the same time

polygamy /pə'lɪgəmi/ *noun* the state of having more than one wife. Compare **bigamy, monogamy**

polygraph /'pɒlɪgrɑːf/ *noun* a machine which tells if a person is lying by recording physiological changes which take place while the person is being interviewed. Also called **lie detector**

popular vote /ˌpɒpjʊlə 'vəʊt/ *noun* a vote of the people

pornography /pɔː'nɒgrəfi/ *noun* obscene publications or films

porridge /'pɒrɪdʒ/ *noun* imprisonment (*slang*) □ **to do porridge** to serve a term of imprisonment

portion /'pɔːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* money or property given to a young person to provide money for them as income

port of registry /ˌpɔːt əv 'redʒɪstri/ *noun* the port where a ship is registered

position /pə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a job or role in an organisation ○ *to apply for a position as manager* ○ *We have several positions vacant.* ○ *All the vacant positions have been filled.* ○ *She retired from her position in the accounts department.*

position of trust /pəˌzɪʃ(ə)n əv 'trʌst/ *noun* a job where an employee is trusted by his or her employer to look after money, confidential information, etc.

positive discrimination /ˌpɒzɪtɪv dɪskrɪmɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* discrimination in favour of one category of workers, such as women, to enable them to be more equal ○ *The council's policy of positive discrimination has ensured that more women are appointed to senior posts.*

positive vetting /ˌpɒzɪtɪv 'vetɪŋ/ *noun* a thorough examination of a person before that person is allowed to work with classified information

possess /pə'zes/ *verb* to own or to be in occupation of or to be in control of ○ *The company possesses property in the centre of the town.* ○ *He lost all he possessed when his company was put into liquidation.*

possession /pə'zeʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** control over property **2.** physically holding something which does not necessarily belong to you □ **the documents are in his possession** he is holding the documents □ **how did it come into his possession, how did he get possession of it?** how did he acquire it? □ **unlawful possession of drugs** offence of having drugs

possession in law /pəˌzeʃ(ə)n ɪn 'lɔː/ *noun* ownership of land or buildings without actually occupying them

possessive action /pəˌzesɪv 'ækʃən/ *noun* an action to regain possession of land or buildings

possessory /pə'zesəri/ *adjective* referring to possession of property

possessory title /pəˌzesəri 'taɪt(ə)l/ *noun* a title to land acquired by occupying it continuously, usually for twelve years

post /pəʊst/ *verb* to pay a bond or bail for someone

post- /pəʊst/ *prefix* later

post code /'pəʊst kəʊd/ *noun* the letters and numbers that are used to indicate a town or street in an address on an envelope

posteriori ◗ **a posteriori**

posthumous /'pɒstjʊməs/ *adjective* **1.** happening after someone's death ○ *posthumous publication of her book* **2.** born after the death of a father ○ *a posthumous child*

post mortem /ˌpəʊst 'mɔːtəm/ *noun* an examination of the body of a dead person to see how he or she died ○ *The post mortem was carried out* or *was conducted by the police pathologist.*

post obit bond /ˌpəʊst 'əʊbɪt ˌbɒnd/ *noun* an agreement where a borrower will repay a loan when he or she receives money as a legacy from someone

post scriptum /ˌpəʊst 'skrɪptəm/ *noun* full form of **P.S.**

power /'paʊə/ *noun* **1.** strength, ability or capacity **2.** authority or legal right ○ *the powers of a local authority in relation to children in care* ○ *the powers and duties conferred on the tribunal by the statutory code* ○ *The president was granted wide powers under the constitution.* □ **the full power of the law** the full force of the law when applied ○ *We will apply the full power of the law to regain possession of our property.* **3.** a powerful country or state ○ *one of the important military powers in the region*

power of advancement /ˌpaʊə əv əd'vɑːnsmənt/ *noun* the power of a trustee to advance funds from a trust to a beneficiary

power of appointment /ˌpaʊər əv ə 'pɔɪntmənt/ *noun* a power given to one person such as a trustee to dispose of property belonging to another

power of attorney /ˌpaʊər əv ə 'tɜːni/ *noun* an official power giving someone the right to act on someone else's behalf in legal matters ○ *His solicitor was granted power of attorney.*

power of search /ˌpaʊər əv 'sɜːtʃ/ *noun* the authority to search premises, which is given to the police and some other officials such as Customs and Excise officers

power politics /ˌpaʊə 'pɒlɪtɪks/ *noun* the threat to use economic or military force by one country to try to get other countries to do what it wants

p.p. *verb* □ **to p.p. a receipt, a letter** to sign a receipt or a letter on behalf of someone ○ *The secretary p.p.'d the letter while the manager was at lunch.* ◊ **per procurationem**

PR *abbreviation* public relations

practice /'præktɪs/ *noun* **1.** a way of doing things ○ *His practice was to arrive at work at 7.30 and start counting the cash.* **2.** a way of working in court **3.** the business premises and clients of a professional person ○ *She has set up in practice as a solicitor* or *a patent agent.* ○ *He is a partner in a country solicitor's practice.* **4.** the carrying on of a profession ○ *He has been in practice for twenty years.*

practice directions /ˌpræktɪs daɪ 'rekʃənz/ *plural noun* notes made by

judges as to how specific procedures or formalities should be carried out. Abbreviation **PDs**

practice form /'præktɪs fɔːm/ *noun* a form which lays out practice in a specific case

Practice Master /ˌpræktɪs 'mɑːstə/ *noun* the Master on duty in the High Court, who will hear solicitors without appointment and give directions in relation to the general conduct of proceedings

practise /'præktɪs/ *verb* to work in a profession, especially law or medicine ○ *He is a practising solicitor.*

practising certificate /ˌpræktɪsɪŋ sə'tɪfɪkət/ *noun* a certificate from the Law Society allowing someone to work as a solicitor

praecipe /'priːsɪpi/ *noun* a written request addressed to a court, asking that court to prepare and issue a document such as a writ of execution or a witness summons

pray /preɪ/ *verb* to ask □ **to pray in aid** to rely on something when pleading a case ○ *I pray in aid the Statute of Frauds.*

prayer /preə/ *noun* words at the end of a petition or pleading, which summarise what the litigant is asking the court to do

pre-action /priː 'ækʃən/ *adjective* before an action starts

pre-action practice /priː ˌækʃən 'præktɪs/ *noun* the way of working before a case comes to court

pre-action protocol /priː ˌækʃən 'prəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* a set of statements which are agreed before the hearings start between lawyers representing different parties about how a case should proceed, which are then approved by the court in the practice direction. These protocols should try to encourage the parties to try to settle without proceeding to litigation.

preamble /priˈæmb(ə)l/ *noun* the first words in an official document such as a contract, introducing the document and setting out the main points in it

precatory /'prekət(ə)ri/ *adjective* requesting

precatory words /ˌprekət(ə)ri 'wɜːdz/ *noun* in a document such as a will, words which ask for something to be done

precedent /'presɪd(ə)nt/ *noun* something such as a judgment which has happened earlier than the present, and which can be a guide to what should be done in the present case □ **to set a precedent** to make a decision in court which will show other courts how to act in future □ **to follow a precedent** to decide in the same way as an earlier decision in the same type of case ○ *The court followed the precedent set in 1926.*

COMMENT: Although English law is increasingly governed by statute, the doctrine of precedent still plays a major role. The decisions of higher courts bind lower courts, except in the case of the Court of Appeal, where the court has power to change a previous decision reached per incuriam. Cases can be distinguished by the courts where the facts seem to be sufficiently different.

precept /'priːsept/ *noun* an order asking for local taxes to be paid

precepting body /ˌpriːseptɪŋ 'bɒdi/ *noun* an organisation which levies a precept

preclude /prɪ'kluːd/ *verb* to forbid or to prevent ○ *The High Court is precluded by statute from reviewing such a decision.* ○ *This agreement does not preclude a further agreement between the parties in the future.*

predecease /ˌpriːdɪ'siːs/ *verb* to die before someone ○ *He predeceased his father.* ○ *His estate is left to his daughter, but should she predecease him, it will be held in trust for her children.*

predecessor /'priːdɪsesə/ *noun* somebody who had a job or position before someone else ○ *He took over from his predecessor last May.* ○ *She acquired her predecessor's list of clients.*

pre-emption /ˌpriː 'empʃən/ *noun* the right of first refusal to purchase something before it is sold to someone else

pre-emption clause /priː 'empʃən ˌklɔːz/ *noun* a clause in a private company's articles of association which requires any shares offered for sale to be offered first to existing shareholders

prefer /prɪ'fɜː/ *verb* **1.** to pay one creditor before any others **2.** to bring something before a court □ **to prefer charges** to charge someone with an offence

preference /'pref(ə)rəns/ *noun* **1.** something which is preferred **2.** the payment of one creditor before other creditors

preferential /ˌprefə'renʃəl/ *adjective* showing that something is preferred more than another

COMMENT: In the case of a company liquidation, preferential debts are debts owed to the government or its agencies and include PAYE owed to the Inland Revenue, VAT, social security contributions, contributions to state pensions schemes.

preferential creditor /ˌprefərenʃ(ə)l 'kredɪtə/ *noun* a creditor who must be paid first if a company is in liquidation

preferential debt /ˌprefə'renʃəl det/ *noun* a debt which is paid before all others

preferential duty /ˌprefərenʃ(ə)l 'djuːti/ *noun* a special low rate of tax

preferential payment /ˌprefərenʃəl 'peɪmənt/ *noun* payment made to one creditor before others

preferential terms /ˌprefə'renʃ(ə)l tɜːms/ *plural noun* terms or way of dealing which is better than usual

preferment of charges /prɪ ˌfɜːrmənt əv 'tʃɑːdʒɪz/ *noun* the act of charging someone with a criminal offence

preferred creditor /prɪˌfɜːd 'kredɪtə/ *noun* a creditor who must be paid first if a company is in liquidation

preferred shares /prɪˌfɜːd 'ʃeəz/ *plural noun* shares which receive their dividend before all other shares, and which are repaid first (at face value) if the company is in liquidation

prejudge /priː'dʒʌdʒ/ *verb* to judge an issue before having heard the evidence ○ *Do not prejudge the issue – hear what defence counsel has to say.*

prejudice /'predʒʊdɪs/ *noun* **1.** an unreasonable view of someone or something based on feelings or opinions rather than facts **2.** harm done to someone ○ *Forgery is the copying of a real document, so that it is accepted as genuine to someone's prejudice.* □ **without prejudice** phrase spoken or written in letters when attempting to negotiate a settlement, meaning that the negotiations cannot be referred to in court or relied upon by the other party if the discussions fail □ **to act to the prejudice of a claim** to do something which may harm a claim ■ *verb* to harm ○ *to prejudice someone's claim*

preliminary /prɪ'lɪmɪn(ə)ri/ *adjective* happening before other things as an introduction or in preparation

preliminary discussion /prɪ ˌlɪmɪn(ə)ri dɪ'skʌʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a discussion or meeting which takes place before the main discussion or meeting starts

preliminary hearing /prɪˌlɪmɪn(ə)ri 'hɪərɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** court proceedings where the witnesses and the defendant are examined to see if there are sufficient grounds for the case to proceed **2.** in the small claims track, a hearing to decide if special directions should be issued, or if the statement of case should be struck out **3.** court proceedings to try a specific issue rather than the whole case

preliminary inquiries /prɪ ˌlɪmɪn(ə)ri ɪn'kwaɪərɪz/ *plural noun* investigation by the solicitor for the purchaser addressed to the vendor's solicitor concerning the vendor's title to the property for which the purchaser has made an offer

preliminary investigation /prɪ ˌlɪmɪn(ə)ri ɪnˌvestɪ'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an examination of the details of a case by a magistrate who then has to decide if the case should be committed to a higher court for trial

preliminary reference /prɪ ˌlɪmɪn(ə)ri 'ref(ə)rəns/ *noun* a reference from a court in a Member State of the European Union to the European Court of Justice on a question of interpretation of EU law, the aim being to ensure that the laws are interpreted uniformly throughout the EU, and that all national courts are familiar with it. The ECJ has used preliminary references as a means of extending the scope of EU law.

preliminary ruling /prɪˌlɪmɪn(ə)ri 'ruːlɪŋ/ *noun* a provisional decision of the European Court of Justice

premeditated /priː'medɪteɪtɪd/ *adjective* having been thought about carefully or which has been planned ○ *a premeditated murder* ○ *The crime was premeditated.*

premeditation /ˌpriːmedɪ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the activity of thinking about and planning a crime such as murder

premises /'premɪsɪz/ *plural noun* **1.** building and the land it stands on □ **office premises**, **shop premises** building which houses an office or shop □ **lock-up premises** shop which is locked up at night when the owner goes home □ **on the premises** in the building ○ *There is a doctor on the premises at all times.* **2.** things that have been referred to previously (NOTE: used at the end of a pleading: *In the premises the defendant denies that he is indebted to the claimant as alleged or at all.*)

premium /'priːmiəm/ *noun* **1.** a sum of money paid by one person to another, especially one paid regularly **2.** the amount to be paid to a landlord or a tenant for the right to take over a lease ○ *flat to let with a premium of £10,000* ○ *annual rent: £8,500 – premium: £25,000* **3.** an extra charge

prerogative /prɪ'rɒgətɪv/ *noun* a special right which someone has

prerogative of mercy /prɪˌrɒgətɪv əv 'mɜːsi/ *noun* the power (used by the Home Secretary) to commute or remit a sentence

prerogative order /prɪˌrɒgətɪv 'ɔːdə/ *noun* a writ from the High Court, which requests a body to do its duty, or not to do some act, or to conduct an inquiry into its own actions

prerogative powers /prɪˌrɒgətɪv 'paʊəs/ *plural noun* special powers used by a government, acting in the name of the King or Queen, to do something such as declare war, nominate judges or ministers without needing to ask Parliament to approve the decision

prescribe /prɪ'skraɪb/ *verb* **1.** to claim rights which have been enjoyed for a long time **2.** to lay down rules

prescribed limits /prɪˌskraɪbd 'lɪmɪts/ *plural noun* limits which are set down in legislation, e.g. the limit on the amount of alcohol a driver is allowed to drink and still drive

prescription /prɪ'skrɪpʃən/ *noun* the act of acquiring a right or exercising a right over a period of time

present /'prez(ə)nt/ *noun* □ **these presents** this document itself □ **know all men by these presents** be informed by this document ■ *verb* to bring or send and show a document □ **to present a bill for acceptance** to send a bill for payment by the person who has accepted it □ **to present a bill for payment** to send a bill to be paid

presentation /ˌprez(ə)n'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process or an act of offering or showing information for other people to consider or make a decision about ○ *The presentation of the case took several days.* □ **on presentation of** by showing ○ *Admission only on presentation of this pass.*

presentment /prɪ'zentmənt/ *noun* the act of showing a document ○ *presentment of a bill of exchange*

preservation order /ˌprezə 'veɪʃ(ə)n ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a court order which prevents a building from being demolished or a tree from being cut down

preside /prɪ'zaɪd/ *verb* to be chairman ○ *to preside over a meeting* ○ *The meeting was held in the committee room, Mr Smith presiding.*

presidential-style /ˌprezɪ'denʃəl staɪl/ *adjective* working in a similar way to the United States presidency □ **presidential-style government** governing in the same way as a President of the USA, who is not a member of the elected legislature □ **presidential-style campaign** election campaign which concentrates on the person of the leader of the party, and not on the party's policies ○ *The Prime Minister was accused of running a presidential-style election campaign.*

President of the Family Division /ˌprezɪdənt əv ðə 'fæm(ə)li dɪˌvɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* a judge who is responsible for the work of the Family Division of the High Court

presiding judge /prɪˌzaɪdɪŋ 'dʒʌdʒ/ *noun* a High Court judge who is responsible for a main Crown Court in a circuit

press /pres/ *verb* □ **to press charges against someone** to say formally that someone has committed a crime ○ *He was very angry when his neighbour's son set fire to his car, but decided not to press charges.*

Press Complaints Commission /ˌpres kəm'pleɪnts kəˌmɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a voluntary body concerned with the self-regulation of the press

press conference /'pres ˌkɒnf(ə)rəns/ *noun* a meeting where reporters from newspapers and TV are invited to ask a minister questions, to hear the result of a court case, etc. (NOTE: In some political parties (such as the British Labour Party), the word **Conference** is used without **the** to indicate that it is not simply a meeting, but a decision-making body: *Decisions of Conference are binding on the Executive*; *Conference passed a motion in support of trade unions*.)

press coverage /'pres ˌkʌv(ə)rɪdʒ/ *noun* reports about something in the newspapers, on TV, etc. ○ *The company had good media coverage for the launch of its new model.*

press release /'pres rɪˌliːs/ *noun* a sheet giving news about something which is sent to newspapers and TV and radio stations so that they can use the information

press secretary /'pres ˌsekrət(ə)ri/ *noun* the person responsible for contacts with journalists ○ *The information was communicated by the President's Press Secretary.*

pressure group /'preʃə gruːp/ *noun* a group of people with similar interests, who try to influence government policies

pressure politics /ˌpreʃə 'pɒlɪtɪks/ *noun* an attempt to change a government's policies by political pressure

presume /prɪ'zjuːm/ *verb* to suppose something is correct ○ *The court presumes the maintenance payments are being paid on time.* ○ *The company is presumed to be still solvent.* ○ *We presume the shipment has been stolen.* ○ *Two sailors are missing, presumed drowned.*

COMMENT: In English law, the accused is presumed to be innocent until he is proved to be guilty, and presumed to be sane until he is proved to be insane.

presumption /prɪ'zʌmpʃən/ *noun* something which is assumed to be correct, because it is based on other facts

presumption of death /prɪ ˌzʌmpʃən əv 'deθ/ *noun* a situation where a person has not been seen for seven years and is presumed to be legally dead

presumption of innocence /prɪ ˌzʌmpʃən əv 'ɪnəs(ə)ns/ *noun* the act of assuming that someone is innocent, until they have been proved guilty

presumptive evidence /prɪ ˌzʌmptɪv 'evɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* circumstantial evidence

pretrial /priː'traɪəl/ *adjective* before a trial starts

pretrial detention /priːˌtraɪəl dɪ 'tenʃən/ *noun US* the situation of being kept in prison until your trial starts (NOTE: The British equivalent is **remanded in custody**.)

pretrial release /priːˌtraɪəl rɪ'liːs/ *noun US* the release of an accused person pending his or her return to court to face trial (NOTE: The British equivalent is **bail**.)

pretrial review /priːˌtraɪəl rɪ'vjuː/ *noun US* a meeting of the parties before a civil action to examine what is likely to arise during the action, so that ways can be found of making it shorter and so reduce costs

prevail /prɪ'veɪl/ *verb* □ **to prevail upon someone to do something** to persuade someone to do something ○ *Counsel prevailed upon the judge to grant an adjournment.*

prevaricate /prɪ'værɪkeɪt/ *verb* not to give a clear and straightforward answer to a question

prevention /prɪ'venʃən/ *noun* the act of stopping something from taking place □ **the prevention of terrorism** stopping terrorist acts taking place

prevention of corruption /prɪ ˌvenʃən əv kə'rʌpʃən/ *noun US* activi-

ty undertaken to stop corruption taking place

preventive /prɪ'ventɪv/ *adjective* trying to stop something happening □ **to take preventive measures against theft** to try to stop things from being stolen

COMMENT: Now replaced by **extended sentence**.

preventive detention /prɪˌventɪv dɪ'tenʃən/ *noun US* formerly, the imprisonment of someone who frequently committed a specific crime, so as to prevent them from doing it again

previous /'priːviəs/ *noun* a previous conviction or convictions for criminal offences

price controls /'praɪs kənˌtrəʊlz/ *plural noun* legal measures to prevent prices rising too fast

price/earnings ratio /ˌpraɪs 'ɜːnɪŋz ˌreɪʃiəʊ/ *noun* the ratio between the market price of a share and the current earnings it produces

price ex warehouse /ˌpraɪs eks 'weəhaʊs/ *noun* the price for a product which is to be collected from the factory or from an agent's warehouse and so does not include delivery

price ex works /ˌpraɪs eks 'wɜːks/ *noun* the price not including transport from the maker's factory

price fixing /'praɪs ˌfɪksɪŋ/ *noun* an illegal agreement between companies to charge the same price for competing products

pricing /'praɪsɪŋ/ *noun* the activity of giving a price to a product

pricing policy /'praɪsɪŋ ˌpɒlisi/ *noun* a company's policy in setting prices for its products

primacy /'praɪməsi/ *noun* supremacy, one of the twin pillars of EU law. ◊ **supremacy**

prima facie /ˌpraɪmə 'feɪʃi/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'on the face of it' or 'as things seem at first' □ **there is a prima facie case to answer** one side in a case has shown that there is a case to answer, and so the action should be proceeded with

primarily /'praɪm(ə)rɪli/ *adverb* in the first place ○ *He is primarily liable for his debts.* ◊ **secondarily**

primary evidence /ˌpraɪməri 'evɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* the most reliable type of evidence, e.g. original documents, or evidence from eye witnesses

primary legislation /ˌpraɪməri ˌledʒɪ'sleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* legislation of the Member States of the European Union, as opposed to legislation of the EU itself

prime /praɪm/ *adjective* **1.** most important **2.** basic

prime bills /ˌpraɪm 'bɪlz/ *plural noun* bills of exchange which do not involve any risk

prime rate /'praɪm reɪt/ *noun* the best rate of interest at which a bank lends to its customers

prime time /'praɪm taɪm/ *noun* the most expensive advertising time for TV advertisements

primogeniture /ˌpraɪməʊ'dʒenɪtʃə/ *noun* a former rule that the oldest son inherits all his father's estate

primus inter pares /ˌpraɪməs ɪn'tɜː peəs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'first among equals': used to refer to the office of Prime Minister, implying that all ministers are equal, and the PM is simply the most important of them

principal /'prɪnsɪp(ə)l/ *noun* a person who is responsible for something, especially person who is in charge of a company or a person who commits a crime

principle /'prɪnsɪp(ə)l/ *noun* a general point or rule that is used as the basis of the way something is done □ **in principle** in agreement with a general rule □ **it is against his principles** it goes against what he believes to be the correct way to act. Compare **principal**

printed matter /'prɪntɪd ˌmætə/ *noun* books, newspapers, advertising material, etc.

prior /'praɪə/ *adjective* earlier □ **without prior knowledge** without knowing before

prior agreement /ˌpraɪə ə'griːmənt/ *noun* an agreement which was reached earlier

prior charge /ˌpraɪə 'tʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* a charge which ranks before others

priori ◗ **a priori**

prison /'prɪz(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a safe building where criminals can be kept locked up after they have been convicted or while they await trial ○ *The government has ordered the construction of six new prisons.* ○ *This prison was built 150 years ago.* **2.** a place where prisoners are kept as a punishment ○ *She was sent to prison for six years.* ○ *They have spent the last six months in prison.* ○ *He escaped from prison by climbing over the wall.* (NOTE: no plural for sense 2, which is also usually written without the article: *in prison*; *out of prison*; *sent to prison*.)

prison chaplain /ˌprɪz(ə)n 'tʃæplɪn/ *noun* a priest or minister who works in a prison

prisoner /'prɪz(ə)nə/ *noun* somebody who is in prison

prisoner at the bar /ˌprɪz(ə)nə ət ðə 'bɑː/ *noun* a prisoner who is being tried in court

prisoner of war /ˌprɪz(ə)nə əv 'wɔː/ *noun* a member of the armed forces captured and put in prison by the enemy in time of war

prisoner on remand /ˌprɪz(ə)nə ɒn rɪ'mɑːnd/ *noun* a prisoner who has been told to reappear in court at a later date

prison governor /'prɪz(ə)n ˌgʌv(ə)nə/ *noun* the person in charge of a prison

prison officer /'prɪz(ə)n ˌɒfɪsə/ *noun* a member of staff in a prison

prison visitor /ˌprɪz(ə)n 'vɪzɪtə/ *noun* ◗ **visitor**

privacy /'prɪvəsi/ *noun* a private life

private /'praɪvət/ *adjective* belonging to a single person, not a company or the state

Private Bill /'praɪvət bɪl/ *noun* a Bill or Act relating to a particular person, corporation or institution

private business /ˌpraɪvət 'bɪznɪs/ *noun* a business dealing with the members of a group or matters which cannot be discussed in public ○ *The committee held a special meeting to discuss some private business.*

private carrier /ˌpraɪvət 'kærɪə/ *noun* a firm which carries goods or passengers, but which is not contractually bound to offer the service to anyone

private client /ˌpraɪvət 'klaɪənt/ *noun* a client dealt with by a professional person or by a salesperson as an individual person, not as a company

private detective /ˌpraɪvət dɪ 'tektɪv/ *noun* a person who for a fee will try to find missing people, keep watch on someone, or find out information

private effects /ˌpraɪvət ɪ'fekts/ *plural noun* goods which belong to someone and are used by him

private eye /ˌpraɪvət 'aɪ/ *noun* somebody who for a fee will try to solve mysteries, to find missing persons or to keep watch on someone (*informal*)

private law /'praɪvət lɔː/ *noun* a law such as the law of contract relating to relations between individual people

private letter /ˌpraɪvət 'letə/ *noun* a letter which deals with personal matters

Private Member's Bill /ˌpraɪvət 'membəz ˌbɪl/ *noun* a Bill which is drafted and proposed as legislation in the House of Commons by an ordinary Member of Parliament, not by a government minister on behalf of the government

private nuisance /ˌpraɪvət 'njuːs(ə)ns/ *noun* a tort, a nuisance which causes harm or damage to a particular person or their rights

private ownership /ˌpraɪvət 'əʊnəʃɪp/ *noun* a situation where a company is owned by private shareholders

private property /ˌpraɪvət 'prɒpəti/ *noun* property which belongs to a private person, not to the public

private prosecution /ˌpraɪvət ˌprɒsɪ'kjuːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a prosecution for a criminal act, brought by an ordinary member of the public and not by the police

privatise /'praɪvətaɪz/, **privatize** *verb* to sell a nationalised industry to private shareholders

privilege /'prɪvɪlɪdʒ/ *noun* **1.** protection from the law given in some circumstances. ◊ **Crown privilege, professional privilege 2.** the right of a party not to disclose a document, or to refuse to answer questions, on the ground of

some special interest **3.** *US* the order of priority □ **motion of the highest privilege** motion which will be discussed first, before all other motions

privileged /'prɪvɪlɪdʒd/ *adjective* protected by privilege

privileged communication /ˌprɪvɪlɪdʒd kəˌmjuːnɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a letter which could be libellous, but which is protected by privilege, e.g. a letter from a client to his lawyer

privileged meeting /ˌprɪvɪlɪdʒd 'miːtɪŋ/ *noun* a meeting where what is said will not be repeated outside

privileged questions /ˌprɪvɪlɪdʒd 'kwestʃ(ə)ns/ *plural noun US* order of priority of motions to be discussed

privileged will /'prɪvɪlɪdʒd wɪl/ *noun* a will which is not made in writing and is not signed or witnessed, e.g. a will made by a soldier on the battlefield or a seaman while at sea

COMMENT: Privileged wills are not like ordinary wills, in that they may be oral, or if written, need not be signed or witnessed. It is sufficient that the intention of the testator was made clear at the time.

privity of contract /ˌprɪvɪti əv 'kɒntrækt/ *noun* a relationship between the parties to a contract, which makes the contract enforceable as between them

Privy Council /ˌprɪvi 'kaʊnsəl/ *noun* a body of senior advisers who advise the Queen on specific matters

COMMENT: The Privy Council is mainly formed of members of the cabinet, and former members of the cabinet. It never meets as a group, but three Privy Councillors need to be present when the Queen signs Orders in Council.

Privy Councillor /ˌprɪvi 'kaʊnsələ/ *noun* a member of the Privy Council

prize court /'praɪz kɔːt/ *noun* a court set up to rule on the ownership of prizes

pro /prəʊ/ *preposition* for or on behalf of

probable cause /ˌprɒbəb(ə)l 'kɔːz/ *noun US* the fact of believing that it is likely that a crime has been committed and by an identified person, which is a necessary part of police stop and search procedures

probate /'prəʊbeɪt/ *noun* legal acceptance that a document, especially a will, is valid □ **the executor was granted probate**, **obtained a grant of probate** the executor was told officially that the will was valid

Probate Registry /'prəʊbeɪt ˌredʒɪstri/ *noun* a court office which deals with the granting of probate

probation /prə'beɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a legal system for dealing with criminals, often young offenders, where they are not sent to prison provided that they continue to behave well under the supervision of a probation officer ○ *She was sentenced to probation for one year.* **2.** a period when a new employee is being tested before being confirmed as having a permanent job ◇ **on probation 1.** being tested ○ *he is on three months' probation* **2.** being under a probation order from a court ○ *to take someone on probation*

probationer /prə'beɪʃ(ə)nə/ *noun* somebody who has been put on probation

probation officer /prə'beɪʃ(ə)n ˌɒfɪsə/ *noun* an official of the social services who supervises young people on probation

probation order /prəˌbeɪʃ(ə)n 'ɔːdə/ *noun* a court order putting someone on probation

probative /'prəʊbətɪv/ *adjective* relating to proof

probative value /'prəʊbətɪv ˌvæljuː/ *noun US* the value of an item as evidence in a trial

problem area /'prɒbləm ˌeəriə/ *noun* an area of work which is difficult to manage ○ *Drug-related crime is a problem area in large cities.*

procedural /prə'siːdʒərəl/ *adjective* referring to legal procedure

procedural judge /prə'siːdʒərəl dʒʌdʒ/ *noun* a judge who deals with the management of a case, its allocation to a particular track, etc.

procedural law /prə'siːdʒərəl lɔː/ *noun* law relating to how the civil or criminal law is administered by the courts. Compare **substantive law**

procedural problem /prəˌsiːdʒərəl 'prɒbləm/ *noun* a question concerning

procedure ○ *The hearing was held up while counsel argued over procedural problems.*

procedure /prə'si:dʒə/ *noun* a way in which something is done, especially the correct or agreed way to deal with something ○ *to follow the proper procedure* ○ *criticised police procedures* □ **this procedure is very irregular** this is not the set way to do something

proceed /prə'si:d/ *verb* to continue doing something ○ *The negotiations are proceeding slowly.* □ **to proceed against someone** to start a legal action against someone □ **to proceed with something** to go on doing something

proceedings /prə'si:dɪŋz/ *plural noun* □ **to institute or to start proceedings against someone** to start a legal action against someone

proceedings in tort /prəˌsi:dɪŋz ɪn 'tɔ:t/ *plural noun* court action for damages for a tort

process /prəʊ'ses/ *noun* **1.** the way in which a court acts to assert its jurisdiction **2.** the writs issued by a court to summon a defendant to appear in court **3.** a legal procedure □ **the due process of the law** the formal work of a fair legal action ■ *verb* to deal with something in the usual routine way ○ *to process an insurance claim* ○ *The incident room is processing information received from the public.*

processing /'prəʊsesɪŋ/ *noun* □ **the processing of a claim for insurance** putting a claim for compensation through the usual office routine in the insurance company

process-server /prəʊˌses 'sɜ:və/ *noun* a person who delivers legal documents such as a writ or summons to people in person

proctor /'prɒktə/ *noun* (*in a university*) an official who is responsible for keeping law and order

procurationem ◗ **per procurationem**

Procurator Fiscal /ˌprɒkjureɪtə 'fɪsk(ə)l/ *noun* (*in Scotland*) a law officer who decides whether an alleged criminal should be prosecuted

procure /prə'kjʊə/ *verb* to get someone to do something, especially to arrange for a woman to provide sexual intercourse for money

procurer /prə'kjʊərə/ *noun* somebody who procures women

procuring /prə'kjʊəmənt/**, procurement** *noun* the notifiable offence of getting a woman to provide sexual intercourse for money

Production Centre /prəˌdʌkʃ(ə)n 'sentə/ *noun* a central office which issues claim forms

product liability /ˌprɒdʌkt laɪə 'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the liability of the maker of a product for negligence in the design or production of the product

proferentem ◗ **contra proferentem**

profession /prə'feʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** work which needs special learning over a period of time □ **the managing director is a lawyer by profession** he trained as a lawyer **2.** a group of specialised workers □ **the legal profession** all lawyers □ **the medical profession** all doctors

professional /prə'feʃ(ə)n(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** referring to one of the professions ○ *The accountant sent in his bill for professional services.* ○ *We had to ask our lawyer for professional advice on the contract.* □ **a professional man** somebody who works in one of the professions, e.g. a lawyer, doctor, accountant □ **professional qualifications** documents showing that someone has successfully finished a course of study which allows him to work in one of the professions **2.** expert ■ *noun* a person with special skills and qualifications in a particular subject

professional misconduct /prəˌfeʃ(ə)n(ə)l mɪs'kɒndʌkt/ *noun* behaviour by a professional person such as a lawyer, accountant or doctor which the body which regulates that profession considers to be wrong, e.g. an action by a solicitor which is considered wrong by the Law Society

professional privilege /prəˌfeʃ(ə)n(ə)l 'prɪvɪlɪdʒ/ *noun* confidentiality of communications between a client and his or her lawyer

profit after tax /ˌprɒfɪt ɑ:ftə 'tæks/ *noun* the profit after tax has been deducted

profit and loss account /ˌprɒfɪt ən ˈlɒs əˌkaʊnt/ *noun* a statement of a company's expenditure and income over a period of time, almost always one calendar year, showing whether the company has made a profit or loss

profit à prendre /ˌprɒfi æ ˈprɒndrə/ *noun* a right to take from land or a river passing through it something such as game or fish

profit before tax /ˌprɒfɪt bɪfɔː ˈtæks/ *noun* the profit of a company after expenses have been deducted but before tax has been calculated

profiteer /ˌprɒfɪˈtɪə/ *noun* somebody who makes too much profit, especially when goods are rationed or in short supply

pro forma /ˌprəʊ ˈfɔːmə/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'for the sake of form' ▫ **pro forma (invoice)** invoice sent to a buyer before the goods are sent, so that payment can be made or that business documents can be produced ▫ **pro forma letter** formal letter which informs a court of a decision of another court

progress report /ˈprəʊgres rɪˌpɔːt/ *noun* a document which describes what progress has been made

prohibit /prəʊˈhɪbɪt/ *verb* to say that something must not happen ○ *Parking is prohibited in front of the garage.* ○ *The law prohibits the sale of alcohol to minors.*

prohibited degrees /prəʊˌhɪbɪtɪd dɪˈgriːs/ *plural noun* the relationships which make it illegal for a man and woman to marry, e.g. father and daughter

prohibited goods /prəʊˌhɪbɪtɪd ˈgʊdz/ *plural noun* goods which are not allowed to be imported

prohibition /ˌprəʊɪˈbɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act of forbidding something **2.** a High Court order forbidding a lower court from doing something which exceeds its jurisdiction

prohibitory injunction /prəˌhɪbɪt(ə)ri ɪnˈdʒʌŋkʃən/ *noun* an order from a court preventing someone from doing an illegal act

promisee /ˌprɒmɪˈsiː/ *noun* somebody to whom a promise is made

promisor /ˌprɒmɪˈsɔː/ *noun* somebody who makes a promise

promissory /ˈprɒmɪsəri/ *adjective* promising

promissory estoppel /ˌprɒmɪsəri ɪˈstɒp(ə)l/ *noun* a promise made by one person to another, so that the second person relies on the promise and acts in way that is detrimental, and the first person is stopped from denying the validity of the promise

promote /prəˈməʊt/ *verb* **1.** to introduce a new Bill into Parliament **2.** to encourage something to grow ▫ **to promote a new company** to organise the setting up of a new company

promoter /prəˈməʊtə/ *noun* somebody who introduces a new Bill into Parliament

prompt /prɒmpt/ *verb* to tell someone what to say ○ *The judge warned counsel not to prompt the witness.*

proof /pruːf/ *noun* **1.** evidence or other thing which shows that something is true ▫ **proof beyond reasonable doubt** proof that no reasonable person could doubt (the proof needed to convict a person in a criminal case) **2.** the statement or evidence of a creditor to show that he or she is owed money by a bankrupt or by a company in liquidation

proofing /ˈpruːfɪŋ/ *noun* ▫ **proofing of witnesses** action of looking into witnesses' statements

proof of debt /ˌpruːf əv ˈdet/ *noun* proceedings for a creditor to claim payment from a bankrupt's assets

proof of evidence /ˌpruːf əv ˈevɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* a written statement of what a witness intends to say in court

proof of identification /ˌpruːf əv aɪ ˌdentɪfɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** proving that something is what the evidence says it is ○ *the policeman asked him for proof of identification* **2.** proving that someone is who they say they are

proof of service /ˌpruːf əv ˈsɜːvɪs/ *noun* proof that that legal documents have been delivered to someone

property /ˈprɒpəti/ *noun* **1.** things that are owned by someone ○ *They have no respect for other people's property.* ○ *He was known to be a receiver of stolen*

property. ○ *The books are my property, but the bookshelves belong to John.* **2.** land and buildings ○ *He owns a lot of property in the north.* **3.** a building such as a house, shop or factory ○ *There are several properties for sale in the centre of the town.* ■ *adjective* relating to land and buildings ○ *a rise in property prices*

proportionality /prəˌpɔːʃ(ə)'nælɪti/ *noun* **1.** the principle that a government or local authority can only act if the action is in proportion to the aim which is to be achieved, the aim being to protect the rights of ordinary citizens **2.** the principle that a legal action can only take place if the costs are proportionate to the aim to be achieved ○ *The requirement of proportionality may be a reason for a party to refuse to respond to a request for further information.*

proportionate /prə'pɔːʃ(ə)nət/ *adjective* directly related to or in proportion to something

proposal form /prə'pəʊz(ə)l fɔːm/ *noun* an official document with details of a property or person to be insured which is sent to the insurance company when asking for an insurance

propose /prə'pəʊz/ *verb* □ **to propose to** to say that you intend to do something ○ *I propose to repay the loan at £20 a month.*

proprietary drug /prəˌpraɪət(ə)ri 'drʌg/ *noun* a drug which is made by a particular company and marketed under a brand name

proprietary right /prə'praɪət(ə)ri raɪt/ *noun* the right of someone who owns a property

proprietor /prə'praɪətə/ *noun* the owner of a property

proprietorship /prə'praɪətəʃɪp/ *noun* the act of being the proprietor of land

proprietorship register /prə 'praɪətəʃɪp ˌredʒɪstə/ *noun* land register which shows the details of owners of land

proprietress /prə'praɪətrəs/ *noun* a female owner

pro rata /ˌprəʊ 'rɑːtə/ *adjective, adverb* at a rate which changes according to the importance of something ○ *a pro rata payment* ○ *to pay someone pro rata*

prorogation /ˌprəʊrə'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the end of a session of Parliament

prorogue /prə'rəʊg/ *verb* to end a session of Parliament ○ *Parliament was prorogued for the summer recess.*

proscribe /prəʊ'skraɪb/ *verb* to ban □ **a proscribed organization**, **political party** an organisation or political party which has been banned

prosecute /'prɒsɪkjuːt/ *verb* **1.** to bring someone to court to answer a criminal charge ○ *She was prosecuted for embezzlement.* **2.** to speak against the accused person on behalf of the party bringing the charge ○ *Mr Smith is prosecuting, and Mr Jones is appearing for the defence.*

prosecution /ˌprɒsɪ'kjuːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act of bringing someone to court to answer a charge ○ *his prosecution for embezzlement* ◊ **Crown Prosecution Service, Director of Public Prosecutions 2.** a party who brings a criminal charge against someone ○ *The costs of the case will be borne by the prosecution.* **3.** the group of lawyers representing the party who brings a criminal charge against someone

prosecution counsel /ˌprɒsɪ 'kjuːʃ(ə)n ˌkaʊnsəl/ *noun* a lawyer acting for the prosecution

prosecution witness /ˌprɒsɪ 'kjuːʃ(ə)n ˌwɪtnəs/ *noun* a person called by the prosecution side to give evidence against the defendant or the accused

prosecutor /'prɒsɪkjuːtə/ *noun* somebody who brings criminal charges against someone

prosequi ◊ **nolle prosequi**

prostitute /'prɒstɪtjuːt/ *noun* somebody who provides sexual intercourse in return for payment

prostitution /ˌprɒstɪ'tjuːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the activity of providing sexual intercourse in return for payment

protect /prə'tekt/ *verb* to defend something against harm ○ *The employees are protected from unfair dismissal by government legislation.* ○ *The computer is protected by a plastic cover.* ○ *The cov-*

er protects the machine from dust. □ **to protect an industry by imposing tariff barriers** to stop a local industry from being hit by foreign competition by stopping foreign products from being imported

protected information /prəˌtektɪd ˌɪnfəˈmeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an electronic text which is not intelligible without a decryption key

protected person /prəˌtektɪd ˈpɜːs(ə)n/ *noun* an important person such as a President or Prime Minister who has special police protection

protected tenancy /prəˌtektɪd ˈtenənsi/ *noun* a tenancy where the tenant is protected from eviction (NOTE: You protect someone **from** something or **from having** something done to him.)

protection /prəˈtekʃən/ *noun* the action of protecting

protection racket /prəˌtekʃən ˈrækɪt/ *noun* an illegal organisation where people demand money from someone such as a small businessperson to pay for 'protection' against criminal attacks

protective /prəˈtektɪv/ *adjective* shielding from potential danger □ **to take someone into protective custody** to put someone in a safe place, e.g. police station cells, to protect him or her from being harassed or attacked

protective tariff /prəˌtektɪv ˈtærɪf/ *noun* a tariff which tries to ban imports to stop them competing with local products

pro tem /ˌprəʊ ˈtem/**, pro tempore** *adverb* for a short time

protest *noun* /ˈprəʊtest/ **1.** a statement or action to show that you do not approve of something ○ *to make a protest against high prices* □ **in protest at** showing that you do not approve of something ○ *The staff occupied the offices in protest at the low pay offer.* □ **to do something under protest** to do something, but say that you do not approve of it **2.** an official document from a notary public which notes that a bill of exchange has not been paid ■ *verb* /prəˈtest/ **1.** □ **to protest against something** to say that you do not approve of something ○ *The retailers are protesting against the ban on imported goods.* **2.** □ **to protest a bill** to draw up a document to prove that a bill of exchange has not been paid

protester /prəˈtestə/ *noun* someone who makes their opposition to something public

protest march /ˈprəʊtest mɑːtʃ/ *noun* a demonstration where protesters march through the streets

protest strike /ˈprəʊtest straɪk/ *noun* a strike in protest at a particular grievance

protocol /ˈprəʊtəkɒl/ *noun* **1.** a draft memorandum. ◊ **pre-action protocol 2.** a list of things which have been agreed. ◊ **pre-action protocol 3.** correct diplomatic behaviour

provable /ˈpruːvəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being able to be proved

provable debts /ˌpruːvəb(ə)l ˈdets/ *plural noun* debts which a creditor can prove against a bankrupt estate

proven /ˈpruːv(ə)n/ *adjective* □ **not proven** (*in Scotland*) verdict that the prosecution has not produced sufficient evidence to prove the accused to be guilty

provide /prəˈvaɪd/ *verb* **1.** □ **to provide for something** to allow for something which may happen in the future ○ *These expenses have not been provided for* ○ *The contract provides for an annual increase in charges.* □ **to provide for someone** to put aside money to give someone enough to live on ○ *He provided for his daughter in his will.* **2.** □ **to provide someone with something** to supply something to someone ○ *The defendant provided the court with a detailed account of his movements.* ○ *Duress provides no defence to a charge of murder.*

provided that /prəˈvaɪdɪd ˈðæt/**, providing** /prəˈvaɪdɪŋ/ *conjunction* on condition that ○ *The judge will sentence the convicted man next week provided (that)* or *providing the psychiatrist's report is received in time.* (NOTE: In deeds, the form **provided always that** is often used.)

province /ˈprɒvɪns/ *noun* □ **the Province** Northern Ireland

provision /prə'vɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** □ **to make provision for** to see that something is allowed for in the future □ **to make financial provision for someone** to arrange for someone to receive money to live on (by attachment of earnings, etc.) □ **there is no provision for, no provision has been made for car parking in the plans for the office block** the plans do not include space for cars to park **2.** money put aside in accounts in case it is needed in the future ○ *The company has made a £2m provision for bad debts.* **3.** a legal condition □ **the provisions of a Bill** conditions listed in a Bill before Parliament □ **we have made provision to this effect** we have put into the contract terms which will make this work

provisional /prə'vɪʒ(ə)n(ə)l/ *adjective* temporary, not final or permanent ○ *They wrote to give their provisional acceptance of the contract.*

provisional damages /prə ˌvɪʒ(ə)n(ə)l 'dæmɪdʒɪz/ *plural noun* damages claimed by a claimant while the case is still being heard

provisional injunction /prə ˌvɪʒ(ə)n(ə)l ɪn'dʒʌŋkʃən/ *noun* a temporary injunction granted until a full court hearing can take place

provisional liquidator /prə ˌvɪʒ(ə)n(ə)l 'lɪkwɪdeɪtə/ *noun* an official appointed by a court to protect the assets of a company which is the subject of a winding up order

proviso /prə'vaɪzəʊ/ *noun* a condition in a contract or deed ○ *We are signing the contract with the proviso that the terms can be discussed again in six months' time.* (NOTE: A proviso usually begins with the phrase **'provided always that'**.)

provocateur ➧ **agent provocateur**

provocation /ˌprɒvə'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* encouragement to commit a crime or carry out an action which you had not intended to do ○ *He acted under provocation.*

provoke /prə'vəʊk/ *verb* to make someone do something or to make something happen ○ *The strikers provoked the police to retaliate.* ○ *The murders provoked a campaign to increase police protection for politicians.* (NOTE: You provoke someone **to do** something.)

proxy /'prɒksi/ *noun* **1.** a document which gives someone the power to act on behalf of someone else ○ *to sign by proxy* **2.** somebody who acts on behalf of someone else, especially somebody appointed by a shareholder to vote on his or her behalf at a company meeting ○ *to act as proxy for someone*

P.S. *noun* an additional note at the end of a letter ○ *Did you read the P.S. at the end of the letter?* Full form **post scriptum**

PSBR *abbreviation* public sector borrowing requirement

Pty *abbreviation* proprietary company

public /'pʌblɪk/ *adjective* □ **the company is going public** the company is going to place some of its shares for sale on the Stock Exchange so that anyone can buy them ■ *noun* □ **the public, the general public** the people in general □ **in public** in front of everyone

public administration /ˌpʌblɪk əd ˌmɪnɪ'streɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the means whereby government policy is carried out **2.** the people responsible for carrying out government policy

publication /ˌpʌblɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act of making something public either in speech or writing ○ *Publication of Cabinet papers takes place after thirty years.* **2.** the act of making a libel known to people other than the person libelled **3.** a printed work shown to the public

Public Bill /ˌpʌblɪk 'bɪl/ *noun* an ordinary Bill relating to a matter applying to the public in general, introduced by a government minister

public disorder /ˌpʌblɪk dɪs'ɔːdə/ *noun* same as **civil disorder**

public domain /ˌpʌblɪk dəʊ'meɪn/ *noun* land, property or information which belongs to and is available to the public

public expenditure /ˌpʌblɪk ɪk 'spendɪtʃə/ *noun* the spending of money by the local or central government

public funds /ˌpʌblɪk 'fʌndz/ *plural noun* government money available for expenditure

public image /ˌpʌblɪk 'ɪmɪdʒ/ *noun* the idea which the people have of a company or a person ○ *The police are trying to improve their public image.*

public interest /ˌpʌblɪk 'ɪntrəst/ *noun* the usefulness of a piece of information to the public, in matters concerning national security, fraud, medical malpractice, etc., used as a defence against accusations of passing on confidential information or of invasion of privacy

COMMENT: Public interest implies that the actions of someone or information held by someone might affect the public in some way: if a newspaper discloses that a group of companies are fixing prices so as not to compete with each other, this disclosure might be held to be in the public interest. If a TV programme reveals that a Member of Parliament apparently took drugs, then this might be held to be in the public interest.

public law /ˌpʌblɪk 'lɔː/ *noun* laws which refer to people in general such as administrative and constitutional law

public monopoly /ˌpʌblɪk mə 'nɒpəli/ *noun* a situation where the state is the only supplier of a product or service

public nuisance /ˌpʌblɪk 'njuːs(ə)ns/ *noun* a criminal act which causes harm or damage to members of the public in general or to their rights

public opinion /ˌpʌblɪk ə'pɪnjən/ *noun* what people think about something

public order /ˌpʌblɪk 'ɔːdə/ *noun* a situation were the general public is calm and there are no riots

public ownership /ˌpʌblɪk 'əʊnəʃɪp/ *noun* a situation where an industry is nationalised ○ *The company has been put into state ownership.*

public place /ˌpʌblɪk 'pleɪs/ *noun* a place such as a road or park where the public have a right to be

public policy /ˌpʌblɪk 'pɒlɪsi/ *noun* the policy of the government of a Member State of the European Union which protects its nationals, and which can be used to exclude nationals of other EU states from entering the country to take up work, though this excuse cannot be used for economic reasons

public prosecutor /ˌpʌblɪk 'prɒsɪkjuːtə/ *noun* a government official who brings charges against alleged criminals. In the UK, it is the Director of Public Prosecutions.

public sector borrowing requirement /ˌpʌblɪk ˌsektə ˌbɒrəʊɪŋ rɪ 'kwaɪəmənt/ *noun* the amount of money which a government has to borrow to pay for its own spending. Abbreviation **PSBR**

Public Trustee /ˌpʌblɪk ˌtrʌ'stiː/ *noun* an official who is appointed as a trustee of an individual's property

publish /'pʌblɪʃ/ *verb* to have a document such as a catalogue, book, magazine, newspaper or piece of music written and printed and then sell or give it to the public ○ *The society publishes its list of members annually.* ○ *The government has not published the figures on which its proposals are based.* ○ *The company publishes six magazines for the business market.*

puisne /'pjuːni/ *adjective* less important

puisne judge /ˌpjuːni 'dʒʌdʒ/ *noun* a High Court judge

puisne mortgage /ˌpjuːni 'mɔːgɪdʒ/ *noun* a mortgage where the deeds of the property have not been deposited with the lender

punish /'pʌnɪʃ/ *verb* to make someone pay the penalty for a crime which he or she has committed ○ *You will be punished for hitting the policeman.*

punishable /'pʌnɪʃəb(ə)l/ *adjective* able to be punished ○ *crimes punishable by imprisonment*

punishment /'pʌnɪʃmənt/ *noun* **1.** the act of punishing someone **2.** treatment of someone as a way of making them suffer for their crime ○ *The punishment for treason is death.*

punitive damages /ˌpjuːnɪtɪv 'dæmɪdʒɪz/ *plural noun* heavy damages which punish the defendant for the loss or harm caused to the claimant, awarded to show that the court feels the defendant has behaved badly towards the claimant. Also called **exemplary damages**

pupil /'pju:p(ə)l/ *noun* a trainee barrister, undergoing a year-long training period before qualification

pupillage /'pju:pılıdʒ/ *noun* a training period of one year after completing studies at university and passing all examinations, which a person has to serve before he or she can practise independently as a barrister

pur autre vie /ˌpu:rə ˌəʊtrə 'vi:/ ◗ **per autre vie**

purchase order /'pɜ:tʃıs ˌɔ:də/ *noun* an official paper which places an order for something

purchaser /'pɜ:tʃısə/ *noun* a person or company that buys something

purge /pɜ:dʒ/ *verb* □ **to purge one's contempt**, **to purge a contempt of court** to do something such as make an apology to show that you are sorry for the lack of respect you have shown

purpose /'pɜ:pəs/ *noun* an aim, plan or intention □ **on purpose** intentionally ○ *She hid the knife on purpose.* □ **we need the invoice for tax purposes**, **for the purpose of declaration to the tax authorities** in order for it to be declared to the tax authorities

purposive /'pɜ:pəsıv/ *adjective* referring to the purpose behind something ○ *a purposive interpretation of the Treaty on European Union*

pursuant to /pə'sju:ənt tə/ *adverb* relating to or concerning ○ *matters pursuant to Article 124 of the EC treaty* ○ *pursuant to the powers conferred on the local authority*

pursue /pə'sju:/ *verb* to continue with something such as the proceedings in court

pursuit /pə'sju:t/ ◗ **fresh pursuit, hot pursuit**

purview /'pɜ:vju:/ *noun* the general scope of an Act of Parliament

put aside /ˌpʊt ə'saıd/ *verb* to decide to cancel an order, judgment or decision

putative father /ˌpju:tətıv 'fɑ:ðə/ *noun* a man who is supposed to be or who a court decides must be the father of an illegitimate child

put away /ˌpʊt ə'weı/ *verb* to send to prison ○ *He was put away for ten years.*

put down /ˌpʊt 'daʊn/ *verb* **1.** to make a deposit ○ *to put down money on a house* **2.** to write an item in an account book ○ *to put down a figure for expenses*

put in /ˌpʊt 'ın/ *verb* □ **to put in a bid for something** to offer (usually in writing) to buy something □ **to put in an estimate for something** to give someone a written calculation of the probable costs of carrying out a job □ **to put in a claim for damage**, **loss** to ask an insurance company to pay for damage or loss

put into /ˌpʊt 'ıntʊ/ *verb* □ **to put money into a business** to invest money in a business

put on /ˌpʊt 'ɒn/ *verb* □ **to put an item on the agenda** to list an item for discussion at a meeting □ **to put an embargo on trade** to forbid trade

put option /'pʊt ˌɒpʃən/ *noun* the right to sell shares at a specific price at a specific date

pyramiding /'pırəmıdıŋ/ *noun* illegally using new investors' deposits to pay the interest on the deposits made by existing investors

pyramid selling /'pırəmıd ˌselıŋ/ *noun* an illegal way of selling goods to the public, where each selling agent pays for the right to sell and sells that right to other agents, so that in the end the commissions earned by the sales of goods will never pay back the agents for the payments they themselves have already made

Q

QB *abbreviation* Queen's Bench

QBD *abbreviation* Queen's Bench Division

QC *abbreviation* Queen's Counsel (NOTE: written after the surname of the lawyer: **W. Smith QC**. Note also that the plural is written **QCs**.)

qua /kwɑː/ *conjunction* as or acting in the capacity of ○ *a decision of the Lord Chancellor qua head of the judiciary*

qualification shares /ˌkwɒlɪfɪ ˈkeɪʃ(ə)n ʃeəs/ *plural noun* number of shares which a person has to hold to be a director of a company

qualified /ˈkwɒlɪfaɪd/ *adjective* **1.** having passed special examinations in a subject ○ *She is a qualified solicitor.* □ **highly qualified** with very good results in examinations ○ *All our staff are highly qualified.* ○ *They employ twenty-six highly qualified legal assistants.* **2.** with some reservations or conditions ○ *qualified acceptance of a bill of exchange* ○ *The plan received qualified approval from the board.*

qualified accounts /ˌkwɒlɪfaɪd əˈkaʊnts/ *plural noun* accounts which have been commented on by the auditors because they contain something with which the auditors do not agree

qualified auditors' report /ˌkwɒlɪfaɪd ˈɔːdɪtəz rɪˌpɔːt/ *noun* a report from a company's auditors which points out areas in the accounts with which the auditors do not agree or about which they are not prepared to express an opinion, or where the auditors believe the accounts as a whole have not been prepared correctly or where they are unable to decide whether the accounts are correct or not

qualified privilege /ˌkwɒlɪfaɪd ˈprɪvɪlɪdʒ/ *noun* protection from being sued for defamation, which is given to someone only if it can be proved that the statements were made without malice

qualified title /ˌkwɒlɪfaɪd ˈtaɪt(ə)l/ *noun* a title to a property which is not absolute because there is some defect

qualify /ˈkwɒlɪfaɪ/ *verb* **1.** □ **to qualify for** to be in the right position for or to be entitled to ○ *He does not qualify for Legal Aid.* ○ *She qualifies for unemployment benefit.* **2.** □ **to qualify as** to follow a specialised course and pass examinations so that you can do a particular job ○ *She has qualified as an accountant.* ○ *He will qualify as a solicitor next year.* **3.** to change a statement □ **the auditors have qualified the accounts** the auditors have found something in the accounts of the company which they do not agree with, and have noted it

qualifying period /ˈkwɒlɪfaɪɪŋ ˌpɪərɪəd/ *noun* a time which has to pass before something qualifies as suitable for something ○ *There is a six month qualifying period before you can get a grant from the local authority.*

quantum /ˈkwɒntəm/ *noun* an amount of damages ○ *Liability was admitted by the defendants, but the case went to trial because they could not agree the quantum of damages.*

quantum meruit /ˌkwæntʊm ˈmeruɪt/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'as much as he has deserved': a rule that, when claiming for breach of contract, a party is entitled to payment for work done

quarantine /ˈkwɒrəntiːn/ *noun* a period when a ship, animal or person newly arrived in a country has to be kept away

from others in case there is a danger of carrying diseases ○ *The animals were put in quarantine on arrival at the port.* ○ *Quarantine restrictions have been lifted on imported animals from that country.* (NOTE: used without **the**: *The dog was put in quarantine or was held in quarantine or was released from quarantine.*) ■ *verb* to put in quarantine ○ *The ship was searched and all the animals on it were quarantined.*

quarter /'kwɔːtə/ *noun* a period of three months

COMMENT: In England the quarter days are 25th March (Lady Day), 24th June (Midsummer Day), 29th September (Michaelmas Day) and 25th December (Christmas Day).

quarter day /'kwɔːtə deɪ/ *noun* the day at the end of a quarter, when rents should be paid

quarterly /'kwɔːtəli/ *adjective*, *adverb* happening every three months, i.e. four times a year ○ *There is a quarterly charge for electricity.* ○ *The bank sends us a quarterly statement.* ○ *We agreed to pay the rent quarterly* or *on a quarterly basis.*

Quarter Sessions /'kwɔːtə ˌseʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* old name for the criminal court replaced by the Crown Court

quash /kwɒʃ/ *verb* **1.** to stop something from continuing **2.** to announce officially that a decision is incorrect and cannot be accepted ○ *The appeal court quashed the verdict.* ○ *He applied for judicial review to quash the order.* ○ *A conviction obtained by fraud or perjury by a witness will be quashed.*

quasi- /kweɪzaɪ/ *prefix* partly ○ *a quasi-official body* ○ *a quasi-judicial investigation*

quasi-contract /ˌkweɪzaɪ 'kɒntrækt/ *noun* same as **implied contract**

Queen's Bench /ˌkwiːnz 'bentʃ dɪ ˌvɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* full form of **QB**

Queen's Bench Division /ˌkwiːnz 'bentʃ/ *noun* one of the main divisions of the High Court. Abbreviation **QBD**

Queen's Counsel /ˌkwiːnz 'kaʊnsəl/ *noun* a senior British barrister, appointed by the Lord Chancellor. Abbreviation **QC** (NOTE: There are no new QCs being appointed currently as the need for the title QC and the system of appointment is currently under review.)

Queen's evidence /ˌkwiːnz 'evɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* □ **to turn Queen's evidence** to confess to a crime and then act as witness against the other criminals involved, in the hope of getting a lighter sentence

Queen's Proctor /ˌkwiːnz 'prɒktə/ *noun* a solicitor acting for the Crown in matrimonial and probate cases

Queen's Speech /ˌkwiːnz 'spiːtʃ/ *noun* a speech made by the Queen at the opening of a session of Parliament, which outlines the government's plans for legislation

COMMENT: The Queen's Speech is not written by the Queen herself, but by her ministers, and she is not responsible for what is in the speech.

question /'kwestʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a sentence which needs an answer ○ *Counsel asked the witness questions about his bank accounts.* ○ *Counsel for the prosecution put three questions to the police inspector.* ○ *The managing director refused to answer questions about redundancies.* ○ *The market research team prepared a series of questions to test the public's attitude to problems of law and order.* **2.** a problem ○ *He raised the question of the cost of the lawsuit.* ○ *The main question is that of time.* ○ *The tribunal discussed the question of redundancy payments.* ■ *verb* **1.** to ask questions ○ *The police questioned the accounts staff for four hours.* ○ *She questioned the chairman about the company's investment policy.* **2.** to query or to suggest that something may be wrong ○ *Counsel questioned the reliability of the witness' evidence.* ○ *The accused questioned the result of the breathalyser test.*

questioning /'kwestʃ(ə)nɪŋ/ *noun* the action of asking someone questions ○ *The man was taken to the police station for questioning.* ○ *During questioning by the police, she confessed to the crime.* ○ *The witness became confused during questioning by counsel for the prosecution.*

questionnaire /ˌkwestʃə'neə/ *noun* a printed list of questions given to people to answer

question of fact /ˌkwestʃ(ə)n əv 'fækt/ *noun* a fact relevant to a case which is tried at court

question of law /ˌkwestʃ(ə)n əv 'lɔː/ *noun* the law relevant to a case which is tried at court

question of privilege /ˌkwestʃ(ə)n əv 'prɪvɪlɪdʒ/ *noun* a matter which refers to the House or a member of it

Question Time /'kwestʃ(ə)n taɪm/ *noun* the period in the House of Commons when Members of Parliament can put questions to ministers about the work of their departments

quickie /'kwɪki/**, quickie divorce** /ˌkwɪki dɪ'vɔːs/ *noun* a divorce which is processed rapidly through the court by use of the special procedure

quid pro quo /ˌkwɪd prəʊ 'kwəʊ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'one thing for another': action done in return for something done or promised

quiet enjoyment /ˌkwaɪət ɪn 'dʒɔɪmənt/ *noun* the right of an occupier to occupy property peacefully under a tenancy without the landlord or anyone else interfering with that right

quit /kwɪt/ *verb* to leave rented accommodation

quo ◗ **quid pro quo, status quo**

quorate /'kwɔːreɪt/ *adjective* having a quorum ○ *The resolution was invalid because the shareholders' meeting was not quorate.* ◊ **inquorate**

quorum /'kwɔːrəm/ *noun* the minimum number of people who have to be present at a meeting to make it valid □ **to have a quorum** to have enough people present for a meeting to go ahead ○ *Do we have a quorum?* ○ *The meeting was adjourned since there was no quorum.*

quota system /'kwəʊtə ˌsɪstəm/ *noun* a system where imports, exports or supplies are regulated by fixing maximum amounts

quotation /kwəʊ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* □ **quotation on the Stock Exchange**, **Stock Exchange quotation** listing of the price of a share on the Stock Exchange □ **the company is going for a quotation on the Stock Exchange** the company has applied to the Stock Exchange to have its shares listed

quote /kwəʊt/ *verb* to repeat a reference number ○ *In reply please quote this number: PC 1234.*

quoted company /ˌkwəʊtɪd 'kʌmp(ə)ni/ *noun* a company whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange

quo warranto /ˌkwəʊ 'wærəntəʊ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'by what authority': action which questions the authority of someone

q.v., quod vide *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'which see'

R

R *abbreviation* Regina *or* Rex (NOTE: used in reports of cases where the Crown is a party: *R. v. Smith Ltd*)

race /reɪs/ *noun* a group of people with distinct physical characteristics or culture who are considered to be different from other groups

race relations /ˌreɪs rɪ'leɪʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* the relationships between different racial groups in a country

racial /'reɪʃ(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to race

racial discrimination /ˌreɪʃ(ə)l dɪs ˌkrɪmɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* unfair treatment of someone because of their racial background

racial hatred /ˌreɪʃ(ə)l 'heɪtrɪd/ *noun* a violent dislike of someone because of their racial background

racial prejudice /ˌreɪʃ(ə)l 'predʒʊdɪs/ *noun* an unreasonably hostile attitude towards someone because of their racial background

racial profiling /ˌreɪʃ(ə)l 'prəʊfaɪlɪŋ/ *noun* the alleged policy of some police officers to stop and question members of some ethnic groups more than others without reasonable cause

racial segregation /ˌreɪʃ(ə)l ˌsegrɪ 'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a policy of keeping people of different races separate in society, especially in such areas as education, housing, transport or leisure activities

racism /'reɪsɪz(ə)m/, **racialism** /'reɪʃ(ə)lɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a belief in racist ideas or actions based on racist ideas ○ *The minority groups have accused the council of racism in their allocation of council houses.*

racist /'reɪsɪst/, **racialist** /'reɪʃ(ə)lɪst/ *adjective* believing that people from other racial groups are different and should receive different and usually inferior treatment ■ *noun* somebody with racist ideas

racket /'rækɪt/ *noun* an illegal business which makes a lot of money by fraud ○ *He runs a cheap ticket racket.* ◊ **protection**

racketeer /ˌrækɪ'tɪə/ *noun* somebody who runs a racket

racketeering /ˌrækɪ'tɪərɪŋ/ *noun* the activity of running an illegal racket

rack rent /'ræk rent/ *noun* **1.** full yearly rent of a property let on a normal lease **2.** a very high rent

raid /reɪd/ *noun* a sudden attack or search ○ *Six people were arrested in the police raid on the club.* ■ *verb* to make a sudden attack or search ○ *The police have raided several houses in the town.* ○ *Drugs were found when the police raided the club.*

raison d'état /ˌreɪzɒn deɪ'tæ/ *noun* the reason for a political action, which says that an action is justified because it is for the common good

COMMENT: Raison d'état is open to criticism because it can be used to justify acts such as the abolition of individual rights, if the general good of the people may seem to require it at the time.

ransom /'rænsəm/ *noun* money paid to abductors to get back someone who has been abducted ○ *The daughter of the banker was held by kidnappers who asked for a ransom of £1m.* □ **to hold someone to ransom** to keep someone secretly until a ransom is paid ■ *verb* to pay money so that someone is released ○ *She was ransomed by her family.*

ransom note /'rænsəm nəʊt/ *noun* a message sent by kidnappers asking for a ransom to be paid

rap /ræp/ *noun* a criminal charge brought against somebody

rape /reɪp/ *noun* the notifiable offence of forcing a person to have sexual intercourse without their consent ○ *He was brought to court and charged with rape.* ○ *The incidence of cases of rape has increased over the last years.* ■ *verb* to force a person to have sexual intercourse without their consent

rapporteur /ˌræpɔːˈtɜː/ *noun* one of the judges in the European Court of Justice who is assigned to a particular case and whose job it is to examine the written applications and the defence to them, and then prepare a report on the case before the court starts oral hearings

rapprochement /ræˈprɒʃmɒŋ/ *French word meaning* 'coming closer', used to refer to a situation where two parties reach an understanding after a period of tension ○ *Political commentators have noted the rapprochement which has been taking place since the old president died.*

rata /ˈrɑːtə/ *abbreviation* pro rata (*see*)

rate /reɪt/ *verb* □ **to rate someone highly** to value someone, to think someone is very good

rateable value /ˌreɪtəb(ə)l ˈvæljuː/ *noun* the value of a property as a basis for calculating local taxes

rate of inflation /ˌreɪt əv ɪnˈfleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a percentage increase in prices over the period of one year

rate of return /ˌreɪt əv rɪˈtɜːn/ *noun* the amount of interest or dividend which comes from an investment, shown as a percentage of the money invested

rates /reɪts/ *plural noun* local tax on property

ratification /ˌrætɪfɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* official approval of something which then becomes legally binding

ratify /ˈrætɪfaɪ/ *verb* to approve officially something which has already been agreed ○ *The treaty was ratified by Congress.* ○ *The agreement has to be ratified by the board.* ○ *Although the directors had acted without due authority, the company ratified their actions.*

ratio decidendi /ˌrætiəʊ ˌdeɪsɪ ˈdendi/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'reason for deciding': main part of a court judgment setting out the legal principles applicable to the case and forming the binding part of the judgment to which other courts must pay regard. ◊ **obiter dicta**

ratio legis /ˌrætiəʊ ˈledʒɪs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'reason of the law': the principle behind a law

RCJ *abbreviation* Royal Courts of Justice

re /riː/ *preposition* about, concerning, or referring to ○ *re your inquiry of May 29th* ○ *re: Smith's memorandum of yesterday* ○ *re: the agenda for the AGM* □ **in re** concerning, in the case of ○ *in re Jones & Co. Ltd* ◊ **res**

re- /riː/ *prefix* again

rea ◊ **mens rea**

reading /ˈriːdɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** □ **First Reading**, **Second Reading, Third Reading** the three stages of discussion of a Bill in Parliament **2.** (*in the EU*) an examination in detail of proposed legislation by the European Parliament

COMMENT: First Reading is the formal presentation of the Bill when the title is read to MPs; Second Reading is the stage when MPs have printed copies of the Bill and it is explained by the Minister proposing it, there is a debate and a vote is taken; the Bill is then discussed in Committee and at the Report Stage; Third Reading is the final discussion of the Bill in the whole House of Commons or House of Lords. European legislation is placed before the European Parliament for discussion. This is the First Reading, and can be decided by a simple majority in the Parliament. If the Council of the European Union sets out a common position on proposed legislation and communicates this to Parliament, Parliament will consider the proposal and may approve it by an absolute majority of its members.

ready money /ˌredi ˈmʌni/ *noun* money which is immediately available

real /rɪəl/ *adjective* **1.** not imitation ○ *His case is made of real leather* or *he has a real leather case.* □ **in real terms** actually or really ○ *Sales have gone up by 3% but with inflation running at 5% that is a fall in real terms.* **2.** referring to things as opposed to persons **3.** referring to land, especially freehold land

real estate /'rɪəl ɪˌsteɪt/ *noun* land or buildings considered from a legal point of view

real income /ˌrɪəl 'ɪnkʌm/ *noun* income which is available for spending after tax and any other deductions have been made

realisation /ˌrɪəlaɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/**, realization** *noun* the process of making something happen ▫ **the realization of a project** putting a plan into action

realisation of assets /ˌrɪəlaɪzeɪʃ(ə)n əv 'æsets/ *plural noun* selling of assets for money

realise /'rɪəlaɪz/**, realize** *verb* **1.** to make something become real ▫ **to realize a project**, **a plan** to put a project or a plan into action **2.** to sell something to produce money ○ *to realise property* or *assets* ○ *The sale realised £100,000.*

realizable assets /ˌrɪəlaɪzəb(ə)l 'æsets/ *plural noun* assets which can be sold for money

realpolitik /reɪ'ɑːlpɒlɪtɪk/ *noun* a German word meaning 'politics based on real and practical factors and not on moral ideas'

real-time system /'rɪəl taɪm ˌsɪstəm/ *noun* a computer system where data is inputted directly into the computer which automatically processes it to produce information which can be used immediately

realty /'rɪəlti/ *noun* property, real estate or legal rights to land

reasonable /'riːz(ə)nəb(ə)l/ *adjective* fair and sensible ○ *The magistrates were very reasonable when she explained that the driving licence was necessary for her work.* ▫ **beyond reasonable doubt** almost certain proof needed to convict a person in a criminal case ○ *The prosecution in a criminal case has to establish beyond reasonable doubt that the accused committed the crime.* ▫ **no reasonable offer refused** we will accept any offer which is not too low

reasonable financial provision /ˌriːz(ə)nəb(ə)l faɪˌnænʃəl prə 'vɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* a provision which relatives and dependants of a deceased person may ask a court to provide in cases where the deceased died intestate, or where no provision was made for them under the will. Abbreviation **rfp**

reasonable force /ˌriːz(ə)nəb(ə)l 'fɔːs/ *noun* the least amount of force needed to do something ○ *The police were instructed to use reasonable force in dealing with the riot.*

reasonable man /'riːz(ə)nəb(ə)l mæn/ *noun* an imaginary person with average judgment and intelligence, who is used as a reference point for usually expected standards of social behaviour

reasoned /'riːz(ə)nd/ *adjective* carefully thought out and explained

rebate /'riːbeɪt/ *noun* money returned

rebel /'reb(ə)l/ *noun* somebody who fights against the government or against people in authority ○ *Anti-government rebels have taken six towns.* ○ *Rebel councillors forced a vote.* ■ *verb* to fight against authority ○ *Some teachers have threatened to rebel against the new procedures.* ○ *It's natural for teenagers to rebel but this has got out of hand.* (NOTE: **rebelling – rebelled**)

rebut /rɪ'bʌt/ *verb* to contradict or to go against ○ *He attempted to rebut the assertions made by the prosecution witness.* (NOTE: **rebutting – rebutted**)

rebuttable /rɪ'bʌtəb(ə)ll/ *adjective* being able to be rebutted

rebuttal /rɪ'bʌt(ə)l/ *noun* the act of rebutting

recall *noun* /rɪ'kɔːl/ a request for someone to come back again ■ *verb* **1.** /riː 'kɔːl/ to ask someone to come back ○ *MPs are asking for Parliament to be recalled to debate the financial crisis.* ○ *The witness was recalled to the witness box.* **2.** /rɪ'kɔːl/ to remember ○ *The witness could not recall having seen the papers.*

recd *abbreviation* received

receipt /rɪ'siːt/ *verb* to stamp or sign something such as a document to show that it has been received or an invoice to show that it has been paid

receipt book /rɪ'siːt bʊk/ *noun* a book of blank receipts to be filled in when purchases are made

receipt in due form /rɪˌsiːt ɪn djuː 'fɔːm/ *noun* a correctly written receipt

receipts /rɪ'siːts/ *plural noun* money taken in sales ○ *to itemise receipts and expenditure* ○ *Receipts are down against the same period of last year.*

receivable /rɪ'siːvəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being able to be received

receivables /rɪ'siːvəb(ə)lz/ *plural noun* money which is owed to a company

receive /rɪ'siːv/ *verb* □ **to receive stolen goods** crime of taking in and disposing of property which you know to be stolen

receiver /rɪ'siːvə/ *noun* **1.** somebody who receives something **2.** somebody who receives stolen goods and disposes of them

receiver of wrecks /rɪˌsiːvər əv 'reks/ *noun* an official of the Department of Trade who deals with legal problems of wrecked ships within his or her area

receivership /rɪ'siːvəʃɪp/ *noun* administration of a company by a receiver □ **the company went into receivership** the company was put into the hands of a receiver

receiving /rɪ'siːvɪŋ/ *noun* the act of taking something which has been delivered □ **receiving stolen property** the crime of taking in and disposing of goods which are known to be stolen

receiving clerk /ri'siːvɪŋ klɑːk/ *noun* an official who works in a receiving office

receiving department /ri'siːvɪŋ dɪ ˌpɑːtmənt/ *noun* the section of a company which deals with goods or payments which are received by the company

receiving office /rɪ'siːvɪŋ ˌɒfɪs/ *noun* an office where goods or payments are received

receiving order /ri'siːvɪŋ ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a court order made placing the Official Receiver in charge of a person's assets before a bankruptcy order is made

receiving party /rɪˌsiːvɪŋ 'pɑːtɪ/ *noun* a party who is entitled to be paid costs (NOTE: The other party is the **paying party**.)

recess /rɪ'ses/ *noun* **1.** a period when the court does not meet, but is not formally adjourned **2.** a period when an official body is not sitting ○ *The last meeting before the summer recess will be on 23rd July.* ■ *verb* not to meet, but without formally adjourning ○ *The Senate recessed at the end of the afternoon.*

recidivist /rɪ'sɪdɪvɪst/ *noun* a criminal who commits a crime again

reciprocal /rɪ'sɪprək(ə)l/ *adjective* according to an arrangement by which each party involved agrees to benefit the other in the same way

reciprocal holdings /rɪˌsɪprək(ə)l 'həʊldɪŋz/ *plural noun* situation where two companies own shares in each other to prevent takeover bids

reciprocal trade /rɪˌsɪprək(ə)l 'treɪd/ *noun* trade between two countries

reciprocal wills /rɪ'sɪprək(ə)l wɪlz/ *plural noun* wills where two people, usually husband and wife, leave their property to each other

reciprocate /rɪ'sɪprəkeɪt/ *verb* to do the same thing to someone as he or she has just done to you ○ *They offered us an exclusive agency for their cars and we reciprocated with an offer of the agency for our buses.*

reciprocity /ˌresɪ'prɒsɪti/ *noun* an arrangement which applies from one party to another and vice versa

recitals /rɪ'saɪt(ə)lz/ *plural noun* introduction to a deed or conveyance which sets out the main purpose and the parties to it

reckless /'rekləs/ *adjective* taking a risk knowing that the action may be dangerous

COMMENT: Causing death by reckless driving is a notifiable offence.

reckless driving /ˌrekləs 'draɪvɪŋ/ *noun* the offence of driving a vehicle in such a way that it may cause damage to property or injure people, where the driver is unaware of causing a risk to other people

recklessly /'rekləsli/ *adverb* taking risks and being unaware of the likely effect on other people ○ *The company recklessly spent millions of pounds on a new factory.* ○ *He was accused of driving recklessly.*

recklessness /'rekləsnəs/ *noun* the act of taking risks

reclaim /rɪ'kleɪm/ *verb* to claim back money which has been paid earlier

recognise /'rekəg,naɪz/, **recognize** *verb* **1.** to know someone or something because you have seen or heard them before ○ *She recognised the man who attacked her.* ○ *I recognised his voice before he said who he was.* ○ *Do you recognise the handwriting on the letter?* **2.** to approve something as being legal □ **to recognize a government** to say that a government which has taken power in a foreign country is the legal government of that country □ **the prisoner refused to recognize the jurisdiction of the court** the prisoner said that he or she did not believe that the court had the legal right to try them

recognised agent /,rekəgnaɪzd 'eɪdʒənt/ *noun* an agent who is approved by the company for which he or she acts

recognizance /rɪ'kɒgnɪz(ə)ns/ *noun* an obligation undertaken by someone to a court that he, she or someone else will appear in the court at a later date to answer charges, or if not, will pay a penalty ○ *He was bound over on his own recognizance of £4,000.* □ **release on recognizance** *US* the release of an accused person, provided that he or she promises to come back to court when asked to do so

recommendation /,rekəmen 'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a piece of advice about how something should be done ○ *He was sentenced to life imprisonment, with a recommendation that he should serve at least twenty years.* ○ *He was released on the recommendation of the Parole Board* or *on the Parole Board's recommendation.*

recommendations /,rekəmen 'deɪʃ(ə)nz/ *noun* a decision of the European Community which is not legally binding

recommittal /,riːkə'mɪt(ə)l/ *noun US* the act of sending a bill back to a committee for further discussion

reconcile /'rekənsaɪl/ *verb* to make two accounts or statements agree ○ *to reconcile one account with another* ○ *to reconcile the accounts*

reconciliation /,rekənsɪli'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of making two accounts, parties or statements agree

reconciliation statement /,rekənsɪli'eɪʃ(ə)n ,steɪtmənt/ *noun* a statement which explains why two accounts do not agree

reconsider /,riːkən'sɪdə/ *verb* to think again ○ *The applicant asked the committee to reconsider its decision to refuse the application.* □ **motion to reconsider a vote** *US* motion at the end of a discussion of any bill, but especially one passed with a close vote, so that a second vote has to be taken to settle the matter

reconstruction of a crime /,riːkən 'strʌkʃən əv eɪ kraɪm/ *noun* the use of people to act a crime again in order to try to get witnesses to remember details of it

reconsultation /riː,kɒnsəl'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of consulting again, as when the Council of the European Union looks again at proposed legislation, taking into account objections raised by the European Parliament

reconvict /,riːkən'vɪkt/ *verb* to convict someone again who has previously been convicted of a crime

reconviction /,riːkən'vɪkʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the conviction of someone who has been previously convicted of a crime ○ *The reconviction rate is rising.*

record *noun* /'rekɔːd/ **1.** a report of something which has happened, especially an official transcript of a court action ○ *The chairman signed the minutes as a true record of the last meeting.* □ **a matter of record** something which has been written down and can be confirmed □ **for the record**, **to keep the record straight** to note something which has been done □ **on record** (fact) which has been noted ○ *The chairman is on record as saying that profits are set to rise.* **2.** a description of what has happened in the past ○ *the clerk's record of service* or *service record* ○ *The company's record in industrial relations.* **3.** a result which is better or higher than anything before □ **record crime figures**, **record losses, record profits** crime figures, losses or profits which are higher than ever before ■ *verb* /rɪ'kɔːd/ to note or to report ○ *The*

company has recorded another year of increased sales. ○ *Your complaint has been recorded and will be investigated.* ○ *The court recorded a plea of not guilty.* ○ *The coroner recorded a verdict of death by misadventure.*

recorded delivery /rɪˌkɔːdɪd dɪ ˈlɪv(ə)ri/ *noun* a mail service where the letters are signed for by the person receiving them

recorder /rɪˈkɔːdə/ *noun* a part-time judge of the Crown Court

Recorder of London /rɪˌkɔːdə əv ˈlʌndən/ *noun* the chief judge of the Central Criminal Court

records /ˈrekɔːdz/ *plural noun* documents which give information ○ *The names of customers are kept in the company's records.* ○ *We find from our records that our invoice number 1234 has not been paid.*

recours ◗ **sans recours**

recourse /rɪˈkɔːs/ *noun* □ **to decide to have recourse to the courts** to decide in the end to start legal proceedings

recover /rɪˈkʌvə/ *verb* **1.** to get back something which has been lost ○ *to recover damages from the driver of the car* ○ *to start a court action to recover property* ○ *He never recovered his money.* ○ *The initial investment was never recovered.* **2.** to get better or to rise ○ *The market has not recovered from the rise in oil prices.* ○ *The stock market fell in the morning, but recovered during the afternoon.*

recoverable /rɪˈkʌv(ə)rəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being possible to get back

recovery /rɪˈkʌv(ə)ri/ *noun* **1.** the process of getting back something which has been lost or stolen ○ *to start an action for recovery of property* ○ *We are aiming for the complete recovery of the money invested.* **2.** the movement upwards of shares or of the economy ○ *the recovery of the economy after a recession* ○ *The economy showed signs of a recovery.*

rectification /ˌrektɪfɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of making changes to a document or register to make it correct

rectify /ˈrektɪˌfaɪ/ *verb* **1.** to make changes to a document to make it correct ○ *The court rectified its mistake.* **2.** to make something correct

recusal /rɪˈkjuːz(ə)l/ *noun* the disqualification of a judge or jury because of bias

red bag /ˌred ˈbæg/ *noun* the bag in which a barrister carries his or her gown, given them by a QC. ◊ **blue bag**

red box /ˌred ˈbɒks/ *noun* a large briefcase covered in red leather in which government papers are delivered to ministers

redeem /rɪˈdiːm/ *verb* **1.** to pay back all the principal and interest on a loan, a debt or a mortgage **2.** □ **to redeem a bond** to sell a bond for cash

redeemable /rɪˈdiːməb(ə)l/ *adjective* being possible to sell for cash

redeemable preference shares /rɪˌdiːməb(ə)l ˈpref(ə)rəns ʃeəs/ *plural noun* preference shares which the company may buy back from the shareholder for cash

redemption /rɪˈdempʃən/ *noun* **1.** the repayment of a loan □ **redemption before due date** paying back a loan before the date when repayment is due **2.** the repayment of a debt or a mortgage

redemption date /rɪˈdempʃən deɪt/ *noun* the date on which a loan, etc., is due to be repaid

redemption value /rɪˈdempʃən ˌvæljuː/ *noun* the value of a security when redeemed

red tape /ˌred ˈteɪp/ *noun* **1.** a red ribbon used to tie up a pile of legal documents ○ *The application has been held up by red tape.* **2.** unhelpful rules which slow down administrative work

reduced /rɪˈdjuːst/ *adjective* lower ○ *He received a reduced sentence on appeal.*

redundancy /rɪˈdʌndənsi/ *noun* a state where someone is no longer employed, because the job being done is no longer needed

redundancy payment /rɪˈdʌndənsi ˌpeɪmənt/ *noun* a payment made to an employee to compensate for losing his or her job

redundant /rɪˈdʌndənt/ *adjective* **1.** more than is needed **2.** useless **3.** something which is no longer needed ○ *a re-*

dundant clause in a contract ○ This law is now redundant. ○ The new legislation has made clause 6 redundant. **4.** □ **to make someone redundant** to decide that an employee is not needed any more

redundant staff /rɪˌdʌndənt 'stɑːf/ *noun* staff who have lost their jobs because they are not needed any more

re-entry /ˌriː 'entri/ *noun* the act of going back into a property

re-examination /ˌriːɪgˌzæmɪ 'neɪʃən/ *noun* the activity of asking a witness more questions after cross-examination by counsel for the other party

re-examine /ˌriːɪg'zæmɪn/ *verb* (*of a barrister*) to ask his or her own witness more questions after the witness has been cross-examined by counsel for the other party

refer /rɪ'fɜː/ *verb* **1.** to mention, deal with or write about something ○ *referring to the court order dated June 4th ○ We refer to your letter of May 26th. ○ He referred to an article which he had seen in 'The Times'.* □ **the schedule before referred to** the schedule which has been mentioned earlier **2.** to pass a problem on to someone else to decide ○ *to refer a question to a committee ○ We have referred your complaint to the tribunal.* **3.** □ **the bank referred the cheque to drawer** the bank returned the cheque to person who wrote it because there was not enough money in the account to pay it □ **'refer to drawer'** words written on a cheque which a bank refuses to pay **4.** (*in the EU*) to pass a case to the ECJ for a ruling (NOTE: **referring – referred**)

referee /ˌrefə'riː/ *noun* **1.** somebody who can give a report on someone's character, ability or speed of work, etc. ○ *to give someone's name as referee ○ She gave the name of her boss as a referee. ○ When applying please give the names of three referees.* **2.** somebody to whom a problem is passed for a decision ○ *The question of maintenance payments is with a court-appointed referee.*

reference /'ref(ə)rəns/ *noun* **1.** the act of passing a problem to a someone for his or her opinion **2.** a comment that mentions someone or something ○ *with reference to your letter of May 25th* □ **with reference to** used to introduce something that will be talked or written about ○ *with reference to your letter of 18th August* **3.** the numbers or letters given to a document which make it possible to find it after it has been filed ○ *our reference: SJ/JA 134 ○ Thank you for your letter (reference MA 25.2). ○ Please quote this reference in all correspondence. ○ When replying please quote reference GS/km 264.* **4.** a written report on someone's character, ability, etc. ○ *to write someone a reference* or *to give someone a reference ○ to ask applicants to supply references* □ **to ask a company for trade references, for bank references** to ask for reports from traders or a bank on the company's financial status and reputation **5.** □ **to hear a reference** (*of the ECJ*) to discuss a legal point which has been referred to them □ **to make a reference** (*of a national court*) to ask the ECJ to decide on a legal point. ◊ **preliminary reference 6.** somebody who reports on someone's character, ability, etc. ○ *to give someone's name as reference ○ Please use me as a reference if you wish.*

referral /rɪ'fɜːrəl/ *noun* **1.** the act of passing a problem on to someone else for a decision ○ *the referral of the case to the planning committee* **2.** (*in the EU*) the action of referring a case to the ECJ

reflag /riː'flæg/ *verb* to register a ship in a different country, giving it the right to fly a different flag

reform /rɪ'fɔːm/ *noun* a change made to something to make it better ○ *They have signed an appeal for the reform of the remand system. ○ The reform in the legislation was intended to make the court procedure more straightforward.* ■ *verb* to change something to make it better ○ *The group is pressing for the prison system to be reformed. ○ The prisoner has committed so many crimes of violence that he will never be reformed.*

refrain /rɪ'freɪn/ *verb* □ **to refrain from something** to agree not to do something which you were doing previously ○ *He was asked to give an undertaking to refrain from political activity.*

refresher /rɪ'freʃə/ *noun* a fee paid to counsel for the second and subsequent

days of a hearing ○ *Counsel's brief fee was £1,000 with refreshers of £250.*

regard /rɪ'gɑːd/ *noun* □ **having regard to, as regards, regarding** concerning a particular subject ○ *having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament* ○ *Regarding the second of the accused, the jury was unable to reach a majority verdict.*

regarding /rɪ'gɑːdɪŋ/ *preposition* concerning a particular subject ○ *I wrote last week regarding my appointment.*

regardless /rɪ'gɑːdləs/ *adverb* □ **regardless of** without concerning ○ *Such conduct constitutes contempt of court regardless of intent.* ○ *The court takes a serious view of such crimes, regardless of the age of the accused.*

regime /reɪ'ʒiːm/ *noun* (*sometimes as criticism*) **1.** a type of government ○ *Under a military regime, civil liberties may be severely curtailed.* **2.** a period of rule ○ *Life was better under the previous regime.*

Regina /rɪ'dʒaɪnə/ *Latin word meaning* 'the Queen': the Crown or state, as a party in legal proceedings (NOTE: In written reports, usually abbreviated to **R:** the case of *R. v. Smith.*)

register /'redʒɪstə/ *noun* an official list ○ *to enter something in a register* ○ *to keep a register up to date* ■ *verb* to write something in an official list or record ○ *to register a company* ○ *to register a sale* ○ *to register a property* ○ *to register a trademark* ○ *to register a marriage* or *a death*

registered /'redʒɪstəd/ *adjective* having been noted on an official list □ **a company's registered office** the address of a company which is officially registered with the Registrar of Companies and to which specific legal documents must normally be sent

registered company /ˌredʒɪstəd 'kʌmp(ə)ni/ *noun* a company which has been properly formed and incorporated

registered land /'redʒɪstəd lænd/ *noun* land which has been registered with the land registry

registered letter /ˌredʒɪstəd 'letə/, **registered parcel** /ˌredʒɪstəd 'pɑːs(ə)l/ *noun* a letter or parcel which is noted by the post office before it is sent, so that compensation can be claimed if it is lost ○ *to send documents by registered mail* or *registered post*

registered office /ˌredʒɪstəd 'ɒfɪs/ *noun* in Britain, the office address of a company which is officially registered with the Companies' Registrar and to which legal documents must normally be sent

registered trade mark /ˌredʒɪstəd 'treɪd ˌmɑːk/ *noun* a name, design or other feature which identifies a commercial product, has been registered by the maker and cannot be used by other makers ○ *You cannot call your beds 'Softn'kumfi' – it is a registered trademark.*

registered user /ˌredʒɪstəd 'juːzə/ *noun* a person or company which has been officially given a licence to use a registered trademark

register of charges /ˌredʒɪstə əv 'tʃɑːdʒɪz/ *noun* an index of charges affecting land

register of debentures /ˌredʒɪstə əv dɪ'bentjʊəz/ *noun* a list of debentures over a company's assets

register of directors /ˌredʒɪstə əv daɪ'rektəz/ *noun* an official list of the directors of a company which has to be sent to the Registrar of Companies

register of electors /ˌredʒɪstər əv ɪ 'lektəz/ *noun* an official list of names and addresses of people living in a specific area who are eligible to vote in local or national elections

Register Office /ˌredʒɪstə 'ɒfɪs/ *noun* a local office where records of births, marriages and deaths are kept and where civil marriages can be performed

register of members /ˌredʒɪstə əv 'membəs/ *noun* a list of shareholders in a company with their addresses

registrar /ˌredʒɪ'strɑː/ *noun* **1.** somebody who keeps official records **2.** an official of a court who can hear preliminary arguments in civil cases **3.** the head of the registry of the European Court of Justice, who is the manager of the court and maintains the files of all pleadings

Registrar-General /ˌredʒɪstrɑː 'dʒen(ə)rəl/ *noun* an official who is re-

sponsible for the process of registering all births, marriages and deaths

Registrar of Companies /ˌredʒɪstrɑː əv ˈkʌmp(ə)niz/ *noun* an official who keeps a record of all incorporated companies, the details of their directors and financial state

registrar of trademarks /ˌredʒɪstrɑː əv ˌtreɪdˈmɑːks/ *noun* an official who keeps a record of all trademarks

registration /ˌredʒɪˈstreɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of having something noted on an official list ○ *registration of a trademark* or *of a share transaction*

registration fee /ˌredʒɪˈstreɪʃ(ə)n fiː/ *noun* **1.** money paid to have something registered **2.** money paid to attend a conference

registration number /ˌredʒɪ ˈstreɪʃ(ə)n ˌnʌmbə/ *noun* an official number of something which has been registered such as a car

registry /ˈredʒɪstri/ *noun* **1.** a place where official records are kept **2.** the registering of a ship **3.** (*in the EU*) an office which administers the ECJ

regulate /ˈregjʊleɪt/ *verb* **1.** to adjust something so that it works well or is correct **2.** to change or maintain something by law □ **prices are regulated by supply and demand** prices are increased or lowered according to supply and demand

regulation /ˌregjʊˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of making sure that something will work well ○ *The regulation of trading practices.*

regulations /ˌregjʊˈleɪʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* **1.** rules made by ministers, which then have to be submitted to Parliament for approval ○ *the new government regulations on standards for electrical goods* ○ *safety regulations which apply to places of work* ○ *regulations concerning imports and exports* **2.** rules laid down by the Council or Commission of the European Communities, according to the European Union treaties, which are binding on all Member States of the EU without any implementing legislation being passed. Compare **directive**

COMMENT: Regulations are binding on people in general as citizens of Member States of the EU; they have a direct effect on all Member States and on all citizens of Member States.

regulatory /ˈregjʊlət(ə)ri/ *adjective* making something work according to law ○ *The independent radio and television companies are supervised by a regulatory body.* ○ *Complaints are referred to several regulatory bodies.*

rehabilitate /ˌriːəˈbɪlɪteɪt/ *verb* to help a criminal become a responsible member of society again

rehabilitation /ˌriːəbɪlɪˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of making someone fit to be a member of society again □ **rehabilitation of offenders** the principle whereby a person convicted of a crime and being of good character after a period of time is treated as if he or she had not had a conviction

COMMENT: By the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, 1974, a person who is convicted of an offence, and then spends a period of time without committing any other offence, is not required to reveal that he has a previous conviction.

rehear /riːˈheə/ *verb* to hear a case again when the first hearing was in some way invalid

rehearing /riːˈheərɪŋ/ *noun* the hearing of a case again

reinsurance /ˌriːɪnˈʃʊərəns/ *noun* insurance where a second insurer (the reinsurer) agrees to cover part of the risk insured by the first insurer

reject /rɪˈdʒekt/ *verb* **1.** to refuse to accept something ○ *The appeal was rejected by the House of Lords.* ○ *The magistrate rejected a request from the defendant.* □ **the company rejected the takeover bid** the directors recommended that the shareholders should not accept the bid **2.** to say that something is not satisfactory

rejection /rɪˈdʒekʃən/ *noun* a refusal to accept ○ *the rejection of the defendant's request* ○ *the rejection of the appeal by the tribunal*

rejoinder /rɪˈdʒɔɪndə/ *noun* formerly, a plea served in answer to a claimant's reply

related /rɪˈleɪtɪd/ *adjective* connected, linked, being of the same family ○ *offences related to drugs* or *drug-related*

offences ○ the law which relates to drunken driving

related company /rɪˌleɪtɪd ˈkʌmp(ə)ni/ *noun* a company which is partly owned by another company

relation /rɪˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** □ **in relation to** referring to or connected with ○ *documents in relation to the case ○ the court's powers in relation to children in care* **2.** a procedure by which, for legal purposes, an act is deemed to have been done at an earlier time than was actually the case ■ *plural noun* **1. relations** links with other people or other groups. ◊ **industrial relations 2.** □ **to enter into relations with someone** to start discussing a business deal with someone □ **to break off relations with someone** to stop dealing with someone

relation back /rɪˈleɪʃ(ə)n bæk/ *noun* the ability of the administrator of an estate to take action to recover funds which were removed from the estate in the interval between the death and the grant of administration

relator /rɪˈleɪtə/ *noun* a private person who suggests to the Attorney-General that proceedings should be brought, usually against a public body

release /rɪˈliːs/ *noun* **1.** an act of setting someone free, or allowing someone to leave prison **2.** the abandoning of rights by someone in favour of someone else ■ *verb* **1.** to free someone or something, or allow someone to leave prison ○ *The president released the opposition leader from prison. ○ Customs released the goods against payment of a fine.* □ **to release someone from a debt**, **from a contract** to make someone no longer liable for the debt or for the obligations under the contract **2.** to make something public ○ *The company released information about the new mine in Australia. ○ The government has refused to release figures for the number of unemployed women.*

release on licence /rɪˌliːs ɒn ˈlaɪs(ə)ns/ *noun* permission to leave prison on parole ○ *The appellant will be released on licence after eight months.*

relevance /ˈreləv(ə)ns/ *noun* a connection with a subject being discussed ○ *Counsel argued with the judge over the relevance of the documents to the case.*

relevant /ˈreləv(ə)nt/ *adjective* having to do with what is being discussed ○ *The question is not relevant to the case. ○ Which is the relevant government department? ○ Can you give me the relevant papers?*

reliable /rɪˈlaɪəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being able to be trusted ○ *He is a reliable witness* or *the witness is completely reliable. ○ The police have reliable information about the gang's movements.*

relief /rɪˈliːf/ *noun* a remedy sought by a claimant in a legal action ○ *The relief the claimant sought was an injunction and damages.*

rem /rem/ ◆ **in rem**

remainder /rɪˈmeɪndə/ *noun* **1.** something left behind ○ *The remainder of the stock will be sold off at half price.* **2.** what is left of an estate, or the right to an estate which will return to the owner at the end of a lease ■ *verb* □ **to remainder books** to sell new books off cheaply

remainderman /rɪˈmeɪndəmən/ *noun* somebody who receives the remainder of an estate

remand /rɪˈmɑːnd/ *noun* the act of sending a prisoner away for a time when a case is adjourned to be heard at a later date ■ *verb* **1.** to send a prisoner away to reappear later to answer a case which has been adjourned □ **he was remanded in custody**, **remanded on bail for two weeks** he was sent to prison *or* allowed to go free on payment of bail while waiting to return to court two weeks later **2.** *US* to send a case back to a lower court after a higher court has given an opinion on it

remand centre /rɪˈmɑːnd ˌsentə/ *noun* a special prison for keeping young persons who have been remanded in custody

remanded in custody /rɪˌmɑːndɪd ɪn ˈkʌstədi/ *noun* remanded to be kept in prison until the trial starts

remedy /ˈremədi/ *noun* a way of repairing harm or damage suffered ○ *The claimant is seeking remedy through the courts.* ■ *verb* to help repair harm or damage

remission /rɪ'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the reduction of a prison sentence ○ *He was sentenced to five years, but should serve only three with remission.* ○ *She got six months' remission for good behaviour.*

remit *noun* /'riːmɪt/ an area of responsibility given to someone ○ *This department can do nothing on the case as it is not part of our remit* or *it is beyond our remit.* ■ *verb* /rɪ'mɪt/ **1.** to reduce a prison sentence **2.** to send money ○ *to remit by cheque* (NOTE: **remitting – remitted**)

remittance /rɪ'mɪt(ə)ns/ *noun* money that is sent ○ *Please send remittances to the treasurer.* ○ *The family lives on a weekly remittance from their father in the USA.*

remote /rɪ'məʊt/ *adjective* too far to be connected ○ *The court decided that the damage was too remote to be recoverable by the claimant.*

remoteness /rɪ'məʊtnəs/ *noun* the fact of not being connected or relevant to something □ **remoteness of damage** legal principle that damage that is insufficiently connected or foreseeable by a defendant should not make the defendant liable to the claimant

render /'rendə/ *verb* **1.** to provide something **2.** to make someone or something become something ○ *Failure to observe the conditions of bail renders the accused liable to arrest.* ○ *The state of health of the witness renders his appearance in court impossible.* **3.** to officially announce a judgment or verdict ○ *The jury rendered a guilty verdict.*

renew /rɪ'njuː/ *verb* to grant something again so that it continues for a further period of time ○ *to renew a bill of exchange* or *to renew a lease* □ **to renew a subscription** to pay a subscription for another year □ **to renew an insurance policy** to pay the premium for another year's insurance

renewal /rɪ'njuːəl/ *noun* the act of renewing ○ *renewal of a lease* or *of a subscription* or *of a bill* ○ *The lease is up for renewal next month.* ○ *When is the renewal date of the bill?*

renewal notice /rɪ'njuːəl ˌnəʊtɪs/ *noun* a note sent by an insurance company asking the insured person to renew the insurance

renewal premium /rɪ'njuːəl ˌpriːmiəm/ *noun* a premium to be paid to renew an insurance

renounce /rɪ'naʊns/ *verb* to give up a right or a planned action ○ *The government has renounced the use of force in dealing with international terrorists.*

rent /rent/ *noun* money paid, or occasionally a service provided, in return for using something such as an office, house, factory, car or piece of equipment for a period of time □ **high rent**, **low rent** expensive or cheap rent

rent action /'rent ˌækʃən/ *noun* proceedings to obtain payment of rent owing

rental /'rent(ə)l/ *noun* money paid to use something such as an office, house, factory, car or piece of equipment for a period of time

rental income /'rent(ə)l ˌɪnkʌm/ *noun* income from letting property

rent allowance /'rent əˌlaʊəns/ *noun* a state subsidy paid to people who do not have enough income to pay their rents

rental value /'rent(ə)l ˌvæljuː/ *noun* the full value of the rent for a property if it were charged at the current market rate, i.e. calculated between rent reviews

rentcharge /'renttʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* payment of rental on freehold land

COMMENT: Rare except in the case of covenants involving land.

rent controls /'rent kənˌtrəʊlz/ *plural noun* government regulation of rents charged by landlords

rent review /'rent rɪˌvjuː/ *noun* an increase in rents which is carried out during the term of a lease. Most leases allow for rents to be reviewed every three or five years.

rent tribunal /'rent traɪˌbjuːn(ə)l/ *noun* a court which adjudicates in disputes about rents and awards fair rents

renunciation /rɪˌnʌnsi'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of giving up a right, especially the ownership of shares

reoffend /ˌriːə'fend/ *verb* to commit an offence again ○ *He came out of prison and immediately reoffended.*

reoffender /ˌriːə'fendə/ *noun* somebody who commits an offence again

reopen /riː'əʊpən/ *verb* **1.** to start investigating a case again ○ *After receiving*

new evidence, the police have reopened the murder inquiry. **2.** to start an activity such as a hearing or inquiry again ○ *The hearing reopened on Monday afternoon.*

reorganisation /riːˌɔːgənaɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/**, reorganization** *noun* the action of organising a company in a different way. In the USA, a bankrupt company applies to be treated under Chapter 11 to be protected from its creditors while it is being reorganised. (NOTE: In the USA, a bankrupt company applies to be treated under Chapter 11 to be protected from its creditors while it is being reorganised.)

repairer's lien /rɪ'peərəz ˌliːn/ *noun* the right of someone who has been carrying out repairs to keep the goods until the repair bill has been paid (NOTE: You have a lien **on** an item.)

repatriate /riː'pætrieɪt/ *verb* to force someone to leave the country he or she is living in and go back to their country of birth

repatriation /riːˌpætri'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act of forcing someone to return to their own country **2.** the return of foreign investments, profits, etc., to the home country of their owner

repeal /rɪ'piːl/ *noun* the act of saying that a law is no longer valid ○ *pressing for the repeal of the Immigration Act* ■ *verb* to say officially that a law no longer has legal authority ○ *The Bill seeks to repeal the existing legislation.* ○ *Member States must repeal national legislation which conflicts with Community legislation.*

COMMENT: Since the UK does not have a written constitution, all EC law has to be incorporated into UK law by acts of Parliament. Since no act of one parliament can be considered binding on another parliament, these acts can in theory be repealed by subsequent parliaments. No parliament can bind subsequent parliaments to the principle of the supremacy of EC law.

repeat /rɪ'piːt/ *verb* □ **to repeat an offence** to commit an offence again

repetition /ˌrepɪ'tɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of repeating something ○ *Repetition of a libel is an offence.*

replevin /rɪ'plevɪn/ *noun* an action brought to obtain possession of goods which have been seized, by paying off a judgment debt

reply /rɪ'plaɪ/ *noun* **1.** a written statement by a claimant in a civil case in answer to the defendant's defence. The reply must be filed at the same time as the claimant files his allocation questionnaire. **2.** a speech by prosecution counsel or counsel for the claimant which answers claims made by the defence ■ *verb* **1.** to answer claims made by an opponent **2.** to give an opposing view in a discussion

report /rɪ'pɔːt/ *noun* **1.** a statement describing what has happened or describing a state of affairs ○ *to make a report* or *to present a report* or *to send in a report* ○ *The court heard a report from the probation officer.* ○ *The chairman has received a report from the insurance company.* □ **the company's annual report**, **the chairman's report, the directors' report** document sent each year by the chairman of a company or the directors to the shareholders, explaining what the company has done during the year □ **the treasurer's report** document from the honorary treasurer of a society to explain the financial state of the society to its members **2.** □ **a report in a newspaper**, **a newspaper report** article or news item **3.** an official document from a government committee ○ *The government has issued a report on the problems of inner city violence.* ■ *verb* to make a statement describing something ○ *The probation officer reported on the progress of the two young criminals.* ○ *He reported the damage to the insurance company.* ○ *We asked the bank to report on his financial status.* □ **reporting restrictions were lifted** journalists were allowed to report details of the case

reported case /rɪˌpɔːtɪd 'keɪs/ *noun* a case which has been reported in the Law Reports because of its importance as a precedent

reporting restrictions /rɪˌpɔːtɪŋ rɪ'strɪkʃ(ə)ns/ *plural noun* restrictions on information about a case which can be reported in newspapers

repossess /ˌriːpə'zes/ *verb* to take back an item which someone is buying under a hire-purchase agreement or a

property which someone is buying under a mortgage because the purchaser cannot continue the repayments

repossession /ˌriːpəˈzeʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of repossessing something, such as taking possession of a mortgaged property where the purchaser cannot continue the mortgage repayments

represent /ˌreprɪˈzent/ *verb* **1.** to state or to show ○ *He was represented as a man of great honour.* **2.** to act on behalf of someone ○ *The defendant is represented by his solicitor.*

representation /ˌreprɪzenˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a statement, especially a statement made to persuade someone to enter into a contract **2.** □ **to make representations** to complain **3.** the process of being represented by a solicitor □ **the applicant had no legal representation** he had no lawyer to represent him in court **4.** a system where the people of a country elect representatives to a Parliament which governs the country

Representation of the People Act /ˌreprɪzenteɪʃ(ə)n əv ðə ˈpiːp(ə)l ˌækt/ *noun* an Act of Parliament which states how elections must be organised

representative /ˌreprɪˈzentətɪv/ *noun* somebody who represents another person ○ *The court heard the representative of the insurance company.*

reprieve /rɪˈpriːv/ *noun* temporarily stopping the carrying out of a sentence or court order ■ *verb* to stop a sentence or order being carried out ○ *He was sentenced to death but was reprieved by the president.*

reprimand /ˈreprɪmɑːnd/ *noun* an official criticism ○ *The police officer received an official reprimand after the inquiry into the accident.* ■ *verb* to criticise someone officially ○ *He was reprimanded by the magistrate.*

reproduction /ˌriːprəˈdʌkʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of making a copy of something ○ *The reproduction of copyright material without the permission of the copyright holder is banned by law.*

republication /riːˌpʌblɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the action of publishing a will again

republish /riːˈpʌblɪʃ/ *verb* to make an existing will valid again from the date of republication. This makes possessions acquired since the will was originally made fall within the dispositions of the will.

repudiate /rɪˈpjuːdieɪt/ *verb* to refuse to accept □ **to repudiate an agreement, a contract** to refuse to perform one's obligations under an agreement or contract

repudiation /rɪˌpjuːdiˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a refusal to accept **2.** a refusal to perform one's obligations under an agreement or contract

reputable /ˈrepjʊtəb(ə)l/ *adjective* with a good reputation ○ *a reputable firm of accountants* ○ *We use only reputable carriers.*

reputation /ˌrepjʊˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the opinion of someone or something held by other people ○ *company with a reputation for quality* ○ *She has a reputation for being difficult to negotiate with.*

requesting state /rɪˈkwestɪŋ steɪt/ *noun* a state which is seeking the extradition of someone from another state

requisition /ˌrekwɪˈzɪʃ(ə)n/ *verb* to take private property into the ownership of the state for the state to use ○ *The army requisitioned all the trucks to carry supplies.*

requisition on title /ˌrekwɪzɪʃ(ə)n ɒn ˈtaɪt(ə)l/ *noun* a request to the vendor of a property for details of the title to the property

res /rez/ *noun* a Latin word meaning 'thing' or 'matter'

resale price maintenance /riːˌseɪl ˈpraɪs ˌmeɪntənəns/ *noun* a system where the price for an item is fixed by the manufacturer and the retailer is not allowed to sell it for a lower price. Abbreviation **RPM**

COMMENT: This system applies in the UK to certain products only, such as newspapers.

rescind /rɪˈsɪnd/ *verb* to annul or to cancel ○ *to rescind a contract* or *an agreement* ○ *The committee rescinded its earlier resolution on the use of council premises.*

rescission /rɪˈsɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a cancellation of a contract **2.** *US* an item in an

appropriation bill which cancels money previously appropriated but not spent

rescue /'reskjuː/ *verb* to save someone from injury or death

COMMENT: If a rescuer is injured while rescuing someone from danger caused by the defendant's negligence, the defendant may be liable for damages to the rescuer as well as to the person rescued.

research institute /rɪ'sɜːtʃ ˌɪnstɪtjuːt/ *noun* an organisation set up to do research

reservation /ˌrezə'veɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of keeping something back □ **reservation of title clause** clause in a contract whereby the seller provides that title to the goods does not pass to the buyer until the buyer has paid for them. ◊ **Romalpa clause**

reserve /rɪ'zɜːv/ *noun* a supply of something that might be needed in future □ **in reserve** kept to be used at a later date ■ *verb* **1.** to ask for a room, table or seat to be kept free for you ○ *I want to reserve a table for four people.* ○ *Can you reserve a seat for me on the train to Glasgow?* **2.** to keep something back □ **to reserve one's defence** not to present any defence at a preliminary hearing, but to wait until full trial □ **to reserve judgment** not to pass judgment immediately, but keep it back until later so that the judge has time to consider the case □ **to reserve the right to do something** to indicate that you consider that you have the right to do something, and intend to use that right in the future ○ *He reserved the right to cross-examine witnesses.* ○ *We reserve the right to appeal against the tribunal's decision.*

reserve currency /rɪ'zɜːv ˌkʌrənsi/ *noun* a strong currency held by other countries to support their own weaker currencies

reserve for bad debts /rɪˌzɜːv fə ˌbæd 'dets/ *noun* money kept by a company to cover debts which may not be paid

reserve fund /rɪ'zɜːv fʌnd/ *noun* profits in a business which have not been paid out as dividend but which have been ploughed back into the business

res gestae /ˌreɪz 'dʒestaɪ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'things which have been done'

reside /rɪ'zaɪd/ *verb* to live in a place

residence /'rezɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* **1.** a place where someone lives ○ *He has a country residence where he spends his weekends.* **2.** the act of living or operating officially in a country

COMMENT: In the European Union, a residence permit is a document which permits the holder to live in a country while not being a citizen of that country. Normally a residence permit is valid for five years and can be renewed automatically. A residence permit is not withdrawn if the person becomes unemployed involuntarily (if a worker gives up his job and makes no effort to find another, his residence permit may be withdrawn).

residence permit /'rezɪd(ə)ns ˌpɜːmɪt/ *noun* an official document allowing a non-resident to live in a country ○ *He has applied for a residence permit.* ○ *She was granted a residence permit for one year.*

resident /'rezɪd(ə)nt/ *adjective* living or operating in a country ○ *The company is resident in France.* □ **person ordinarily resident in the UK** somebody who normally lives in the UK ■ *noun* a person living in a country

resident alien /ˌrezɪd(ə)nt 'eɪliən/ *noun* an alien who has permission to live in a country without having citizenship

residual /rɪ'zɪdjuəl/ *adjective* remaining after everything else has gone

residuary /rɪ'zɪdjuəri/ *adjective* referring to what is left

residuary body /rɪ'zɪdjuəri ˌbɒdi/ *noun* a body set up to administer the ending of a local authority and to manage those of its functions which have not been handed over to other authorities

residuary devise /rɪˌzɪdjuəri dɪ 'vaɪz/ *noun* devise to someone of what is left of the testator's property after other devises have been made and taxes have been paid

residuary devisee /rɪˌzɪdjuəri ˌdiːvaɪ'ziː/ *noun* somebody who receives the rest of the land when the other bequests have been made

residuary estate /rɪˌzɪdjuəri ɪ'steɪt/ *noun* **1.** the estate of a dead person which has not been bequeathed in his will **2.** what remains of an estate after the debts have been paid and bequests have been made

residuary legacy /rɪˌzɪdjuəri 'legəsi/ *noun* a legacy of what remains of an estate after debts, taxes and other legacies have been paid

residuary legatee /rɪˌzɪdjuəri ˌlegə 'tiː/ *noun* somebody who receives the rest of the personal property after specific legacies have been made

residue /'rezɪˌdjuː/ *noun* what is left over, especially what is left of an estate after debts and bequests have been made ○ *After paying various bequests the residue of his estate was split between his children.*

resign /rɪ'zaɪn/ *verb* to leave a job ○ *He resigned from his post as treasurer.* ○ *He has resigned with effect from July 1st.* ○ *She resigned as Education Minister.*

res ipsa loquitur /ˌreɪz ˌɪpsə 'lɒkwɪtə/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'the matter speaks for itself': a situation where the facts seem so obvious, that it is for the defendant to prove he or she was not negligent rather than for the claimant to prove his or her claim

resisting arrest /rɪˌzɪstɪŋ ə'rest/ *noun* the offence of refusing to allow yourself to be arrested

res judicata /ˌreɪz ˌdʒuːdɪ'kætə/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'matter on which a judgment has been given'

resolution /ˌrezə'luːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the action of solving a dispute ○ *The aim of the small claims track is the rapid resolution of disputes.*

COMMENT: There are three types or resolution which can be put to an AGM: the 'ordinary resolution', usually referring to some general procedural matter, and which requires a simple majority of votes; and the 'extraordinary resolution' and 'special resolution', such as a resolution to change a company's articles of association in some way, both of which need 75% of the votes before they can be carried.

resort /rɪ'zɔːt/ *verb* □ **to resort to** to come to use ○ *He had to resort to threats of court action to get repayment of the money owing.* ○ *Workers must not resort to violence in industrial disputes.*

respect /rɪ'spekt/ *noun* □ **with respect to**, **in respect of** concerning ○ *his right to an indemnity in respect of earlier payments* ○ *The defendant counterclaimed for loss and damage in respect of a machine sold to him by the claimant.*

respondeat superior /rɪ ˌspɒndeɪæt su'periɔː/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'let the superior be responsible': rule that a principal is responsible for actions of the agent or the employer for actions of the employee

respondent /rɪ'spɒndənt/ *noun* **1.** the other side in a case which is the subject of an appeal **2.** a person against whom an order is sought by an application notice **3.** somebody who answers a petition, especially one who is being sued for divorce ▸ ◊ **co-respondent**

responsible for /rɪ'spɒnsɪb(ə)l fɔː/ *noun* being in charge of or being in control of ○ *The tenant is responsible for all repairs to the building.* ○ *The consignee is held responsible for the goods he has received on consignment.* ○ *She was responsible for a series of thefts from offices.*

responsible government /rɪ ˌspɒnsɪb(ə)l 'gʌv(ə)nmənt/ *noun* a form of government which acts in accordance with the wishes of the people and which is accountable to Parliament for its actions

responsible to someone /rɪ ˌspɒnsɪb(ə)l tə 'sʌmwʌn/ *noun* being under someone's authority ○ *Magistrates are responsible to the Lord Chancellor.*

restitutio in integrum /restɪ ˌtuːtiəʊ ɪn ɪn'tegrəm/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'returning everything to the state as it was before'

restitution /ˌrestɪ'tjuːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the return of property which has been illegally obtained ○ *The court ordered the restitution of assets to the company.* **2.** compensation or payment for damage or loss

restitution order /ˌrestɪ'tjuːʃ(ə)n ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a court order asking for property to be returned to someone

restrain /rɪ'streɪn/ *verb* **1.** to control or to hold someone back ○ *The prisoner fought and had to be restrained by two policemen.* **2.** to tell someone not to do something ○ *The court granted the claimant an injunction restraining the defendant from breaching copyright.*

restraining order /rɪ'streɪnɪŋ ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a court order which tells a defendant not to do something while the court is still taking a decision

restraint /rɪ'streɪnt/ *noun* control

restraint of trade /rɪˌstreɪnt əv 'treɪd/ *noun* **1.** a situation where an employee is not allowed to move to another job in the same trade because the experience acquired with the present employer might be sensitive or unfairly beneficial to the new employer **2.** an attempt by companies to fix prices, create monopolies or reduce competition, which could affect free trade

restriction /rɪ'strɪkʃ(ə)n/ *noun* something that limits what can happen or what someone can do □ **to impose restrictions on imports**, **on credit** to start limiting imports or credit □ **to lift credit restrictions** to allow credit to be given freely □ **reporting restrictions were lifted** journalists were allowed to report details of the case

restrictive /rɪ'strɪktɪv/ *adjective* limiting

restrictive covenant /rɪˌstrɪktɪv 'kʌvənənt/ *noun* a clause in a contract which prevents someone from doing something

restrictive practices /rɪˌstrɪktɪv 'præktɪsɪz/ *plural noun* ways of working which exclude free competition in relation to the supply of goods or labour in order to maintain high prices or wages

Restrictive Practices Court /rɪ ˌstrɪktɪv 'præktɪsɪz ˌkɔːt/ *noun* a court which decides in cases of restrictive practices

retail /'riːteɪl/ *noun* the sale of small quantities of goods to individual customers

retailer /'riːteɪlə/ *noun* a person who runs a business that sells goods to the public

retail price /'riːteɪl ˌpraɪs/ *noun* the price at which the retailer sells to the final customer

retail shop /'riːteɪl ʃɒp/ *noun* a shop where goods are sold only to the public

retain /rɪ'teɪn/ *verb* □ **to retain a lawyer to act for you** to agree with a lawyer that he or she will act for you (and pay a fee in advance)

retained income /rɪˌteɪnd 'ɪnkʌm/ *noun* profit which is not distributed to the shareholders as dividend

retainer /rɪ'teɪnə/ *noun* **1.** a fee paid to a barrister **2.** money paid in advance to someone when they are not actively working for you so that they will work for you on the occasions when they are needed ○ *We pay him a retainer of £1,000 per annum.*

retiral /rɪ'taɪərəl/ *noun Scotland, US* same as **retirement**

retire /rɪ'taɪə/ *verb* **1.** to stop work and take a pension ○ *She retired with a £6,000 pension.* ○ *The chairman of the company retired at the age of 65.* ○ *The shop is owned by a retired policeman.* **2.** to make an employee stop work and take a pension ○ *They decided to retire all staff over 50 years of age.* **3.** to come to the end of an elected term of office ○ *The treasurer retires after six years.* ○ *Two retiring directors offer themselves for re-election.* **4.** to go away from a court for a period of time ○ *The magistrates retired to consider their verdict.* ○ *The jury retired for four hours.*

retirement /rɪ'taɪəmənt/ *noun* **1.** the act of retiring from work □ **to take early retirement** to leave work before the usual age **2.** (*of a jury*) the act of leaving a courtroom to consider a verdict

retirement age /rɪ'taɪəmənt eɪdʒ/ *noun* the age at which people retire (in the UK usually 65 for men and 60 for women) (NOTE: In the UK, this is usually 65 for men and 60 for women.)

retirement pension /rɪ'taɪəmənt ˌpenʃən/ *noun* a state pension given to a man who is over 65 or woman who is over 60

retirement plan /rɪ'taɪəmənt plæn/ *noun* a plan set up to provide a person for someone when he or she retires

retiring age /rɪ'taɪərɪŋ eɪdʒ/ *noun* the age at which people retire (in the UK usually 65 for men and 60 for women) (NOTE: In the UK, this is usually 65 for men and 60 for women.)

retrial /'riːˌtraɪəl/ *noun* a new trial ○ *The Court of Appeal ordered a retrial.*

retroactive /ˌretrəʊ'æktɪv/ *adjective* taking effect from a time in the past ○ *They received a pay rise retroactive to last January.*

retroactively /ˌretrəʊ'æktɪvli/ *adverb* going back to a time in the past

retrospective /ˌretrəʊ'spektɪv/ *adjective* going back in time ○ *Legislation is enacted with the presumption that it should not be retrospective.* □ **with retrospective effect** applying to a past period

retrospective legislation /ˌretrəʊspektɪv ˌledʒɪ'sleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an Act of Parliament which applies to the period before the Act was passed

retrospectively /ˌretrəʊ'spektɪvli/ *adverb* in a retrospective way ○ *The ruling is applied retrospectively.*

retry /ˌriː'traɪ/ *verb* to try a case a second time ○ *The court ordered the case to be retried.*

return /rɪ'tɜːn/ *noun* □ **to make a return to the tax office**, **to make an income tax return** to send a statement of income to the tax office □ **to fill in a VAT return** to complete the form showing VAT income and expenditure

return address /rɪ'tɜːn əˌdres/ *noun* an address to send back something

return on investment /rɪˌtɜːn ɒn ɪn 'vestmənt/ *noun* profit shown as a percentage of money invested

reus ◗ **actus reus**

revenue expenditure /ˌrevənjuː ɪk 'spendɪtʃə/ *noun* the day-to-day costs of a council such as salaries and wages, maintenance of buildings, etc.

revenue officer /'revənjuː ˌɒfɪsə/ *noun* somebody working in a government tax office

reversal /rɪ'vɜːs(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** the change of a decision to the opposite ○ *The reversal of the High Court ruling by the Court of Appeal.* **2.** a change from being profitable to unprofitable ○ *The company suffered a reversal in the Far East.*

reverse /rɪ'vɜːs/ *adjective* opposite, in the opposite direction ■ *verb* to change a decision to the opposite one ○ *The Appeal Court reversed the decision of the High Court.*

reverse charge call /rɪˌvɜːs tʃɑːdʒ 'kɔːl/ *noun* a telephone call where the person receiving the call agrees to pay for it

reverse takeover /rɪˌvɜːs 'teɪkəʊvə/ *noun* a takeover where the company which has been taken over ends up owning the company which has taken it over

reversion /rɪ'vɜːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the return of property to an original owner when a lease expires □ **he has the reversion of the estate** he will receive the estate when the present lease ends or when the present owner dies

reversionary /rɪ'vɜːʃ(ə)n(ə)ri/ *adjective* referring to property which passes to another owner on the death of the present one

reversionary annuity /rɪ ˌvɜːʃ(ə)n(ə)ri ə'njuːɪti/ *noun* an annuity paid to someone on the death of another person

reversionary right /rɪˌvɜːʃ(ə)n(ə)ri 'raɪt/ *noun* the right of a writer's heir to his or her copyrights after his or her death

revert /rɪ'vɜːt/ *verb* to go back to the previous state or owner ○ *The property reverts to its original owner in 2010.*

review /rɪ'vjuː/ *noun* a general examination of something again ○ *to conduct a review of sentencing policy* ○ *The coroner asked for a review of police procedures.* ■ *verb* to examine something generally ○ *A committee has been appointed to review judicial salaries.* ○ *The High Court has reviewed the decision.*

revise /rɪ'vaɪz/ *verb* to change a document, decision or opinion in some way ○ *The judge revised his earlier decision not to consider a submission from defence counsel.*

revision /rɪ'vɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of changing something ○ *The Lord Chancellor has proposed a revision of the divorce procedures.*

revival /rɪ'vaɪv(ə)l/ *noun* the act of making a will that has been revoked but not destroyed valid again

revive /rɪ'vaɪv/ *verb* to make a revoked will become valid again

revocable /'revəkəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being able to be revoked. Opposite **irrevocable** (NOTE: The opposite is **irrevocable**.)

revocandi ➧ **animus revocandi**

revocation /ˌrevəʊ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of cancelling a permission, right, agreement, offer or will

COMMENT: A will may be revoked by marriage, by writing another will which changes the dispositions of the first one, or by destroying the will intentionally.

revoke /rɪ'vəʊk/ *verb* to cancel a permission, right, agreement, offer or will ○ *to revoke a clause in an agreement* ○ *The treaty on fishing rights has been revoked.*

reward /rɪ'wɔːd/ *noun* a payment given to someone who does a service such as finding something which has been lost or giving information about something ○ *She offered a £50 reward to anyone who found her watch.* ○ *The police have offered a reward for information about the man seen at the bank.*

Rex /reks/ *Latin word meaning* 'the King': the Crown or state, as a party in legal proceedings (NOTE: In written reports, usually abbreviated to **R**: **the case of** *R. v. Smith*.)

rfp *abbreviation* reasonable financial provision

rider /'raɪdə/ *noun* **1.** a clause added to a document such as contract or report **2.** *US* a clause attached to a bill, which may have nothing to do with the subject of the bill, but which the sponsor hopes will help the bill to pass into law more easily

right /raɪt/ *noun* a legal entitlement to something ○ *right of renewal of a contract* ○ *She has a right to the property.* ○ *He has no right to the patent.* ○ *The staff have a right to know what the company is doing.*

rightful /'raɪtf(ə)l/ *adjective* legally correct

rightful claimant /ˌraɪtf(ə)l 'kleɪmənt/ *noun* somebody who has a legal claim to something

rightful owner /ˌraɪtf(ə)l 'əʊnə/ *noun* the legal owner

Right Honourable /ˌraɪt 'ɒn(ə)rəb(ə)l/ *noun* the title given to members of the Privy Council (NOTE: usually written **Hon.**: *the Hon. Member; the Rt. Hon. William Smith, M.P.*)

right of abode /ˌraɪt əv ə'bəʊd/ *noun* the right to live in a country

right of audience /ˌraɪt əv 'ɔːdiəns/ *noun* the right to speak to a court, which can be used by the parties in the case or their legal representatives ○ *A barrister has right of audience in any court in England and Wales.* (NOTE: Solicitors now have right of audience in some courts.)

COMMENT: Solicitors have a right of audience in a limited number of courts. Solicitor-advocates have the same rights of audience as barristers.

right of centre /ˌraɪt əv 'sentə/ *adjective* tending towards conservatism ○ *a left-of-centre political group* ○ *The Cabinet is formed mainly of right-of-centre supporters of the Prime Minister.* (NOTE: usually used with **the**: *The centre combined with the right to defeat the motion.*)

right of establishment /ˌraɪt əv ɪ 'stæblɪʃmənt/ *noun* the right of an EC citizen to live and work in any EC country

right of re-entry /ˌraɪt əv ri'entri/ *noun* **1.** the right of a landlord to take back possession of the property if the tenant breaks his agreement **2.** the right of a person resident in a country to go back into that country after leaving it for a time

right of reply /ˌraɪt əv rɪ'plaɪ/ *noun* the right of someone to answer claims made by an opponent ○ *He demanded the right of reply to the newspaper allegations.*

right of silence /ˌraɪt əv 'saɪləns/ *noun* the right of an accused not to say anything when charged with a criminal offence

right of survivorship /ˌraɪt əv sə 'vaɪvəʃɪp/ *noun* a right of the survivor

of a joint tenancy to the estate rather than of the heirs of the deceased tenant (*also*) (NOTE: The right of survivorship is also called by its Latin name: *jus accrescendi*.)

right of way /ˌraɪt əv 'weɪ/ *noun* the right to go lawfully along a path on another person's land

right to enter /ˌraɪt tə 'entə/ *noun* the right of a EU citizen to go into another EU country to look for work

right to reside /ˌraɪt tə rɪ'zaɪd/ *noun* one of the fundamental rights of citizens and workers in the European Union, the right of living in any another EU Member State

rigor mortis /ˌrɪgə 'mɔːtɪs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'stiffening of the dead': a state where a dead body becomes stiff some time after death, which can allow a pathologist to estimate the time of death in some cases

ring /rɪŋ/ *verb* to alter chassis or engine numbers on a car, so as to falsify its origin

riot /'raɪət/ *noun* a notifiable offence when three or more people meet illegally and plan to use force to achieve their aims or to frighten the public ■ *verb* to form an illegal group to use force

rioter /'raɪətə/ *noun* somebody who takes part in a riot ○ *Rioters attacked the banks and post offices.*

riotous assembly /ˌraɪətəs ə 'semblɪ/ *noun* formerly, a meeting of twelve or more people who come together to use force to achieve their aims or frighten other people

riparian /raɪ'peərɪən/ *adjective* referring to the bank of a river

riparian rights /raɪ'peərɪən ˌraɪts/ *plural noun* the rights that apply to people who own land on the bank of a river, e.g. the right to fish in the river

risk /rɪsk/ *noun* **1.** possible harm, loss or chance of danger □ **at risk** in a situation where something bad or dangerous is likely to happen ○ *His careless driving had put his passengers as well as other road-users at risk.* ○ *The school was known to be at risk of flooding.* □ **at owner's risk** a situation in which goods shipped or stored are the responsibility of the owner, not of the shipping company or storage company □ **to run a risk** *or* **run the risk of something** to be likely to suffer harm ○ *She knew she was running a risk in not reporting the accident.* ○ *In allowing him to retain his passport, the court runs the risk of the accused leaving the country.* **2.** loss or damage against which you are insured □ **he is a bad risk** it is likely that an insurance company will have to pay out compensation as far as he is concerned ○ *He is likely to die soon, so is a bad risk for an insurance company*

road rage /'rəʊd reɪdʒ/ *noun* a violent attack by a driver on another car or its driver, caused by anger at the way the other driver has been driving ○ *There have been several incidents of road rage lately.* ○ *In the latest road rage attack, the driver leapt out of his car and knocked a cyclist to the ground.*

road tax /'rəʊd tæks/ *noun* an annual tax levied on cars and other vehicles

rob /rɒb/ *verb* to steal something from someone, usually violently ○ *They robbed a bank in London and stole a car to make their getaway.* ○ *The gang robbed shopkeepers in the centre of the town.* (NOTE: **robbing – robbed**. Note also that you rob someone **of** something.)

robber /'rɒbə/ *noun* somebody who robs people

robbery /'rɒbəri/ *noun* **1.** the offence of stealing something from someone using force or threatening to use force **2.** the act of stealing something with violence ○ *He committed three petrol station robberies in two days.*

robbery with violence /ˌrɒbəri wɪð 'vaɪələns/ *noun* the offence of stealing goods and harming someone at the same time

rogatory letter /'rɒgət(ə)ri ˌletə/ *noun* a letter of request to a court in another country, asking for evidence to be taken from someone under that court's jurisdiction

rolling contract /ˌrəʊlɪŋ 'kɒntrækt/ *noun* **1.** a contract for a period of more than one year that is renewed annually for the same period, subject to a favourable review **2.** a contract that is open-end-

ed and runs until one of the contracting parties cancels it

Roll of Solicitors /ˌrəʊl əv sə ˈlɪsɪtəz/ *noun* a list of admitted solicitors

roll over /ˌrəʊl ˈəʊvə/ *verb* □ **to roll over credit** to make credit available over a continuing period

Romalpa clause /rəʊˈmɒlpə ˌklɔːz/ *noun* a clause in a contract, whereby the seller provides that title to the goods does not pass to the buyer until the buyer has paid for them

COMMENT: Called after the case of *Aluminium Industrie Vaassen BV v. Romalpa Ltd.*

Roman law /ˈrəʊmən lɔː/ *noun* the set of laws which existed in the Roman Empire

COMMENT: Roman law is the basis of the laws of many European countries but has had only negligible and indirect influence on the development of English law.

Rome Convention /ˌrəʊm kən ˈvenʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a copyright convention signed in Rome, covering the rights of record producers, musical performers, broadcasters and television companies, etc.

root of title /ˌruːt əv ˈtaɪt(ə)l/ *noun* the basic title deed which proves that a vendor has the right to sell a property

ROR *abbreviation US* release on recognizance

rotation /rəʊˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the activity of taking turns □ **to fill the post of chairman by rotation** each member of the group is chairman for a period then gives the post to another member □ **two directors retire by rotation** two directors retire because they have been directors longer than any others, but can offer themselves for re-election

rough copy /ˌrʌf ˈkɒpi/ *noun* a draft of a document which is expected to have changes made to it before it is complete

rough draft /ˌrʌf ˈdrɑːft/ *noun* a plan of a document which may have changes made to it before it is complete

rough justice /ˌrʌf ˈdʒʌstɪs/ *noun* legal processes which are not always very fair

round table conference /ˌraʊnd ˌteɪb(ə)l ˈkɒnf(ə)rəns/ *noun* a conference at which each party at the meeting is of equal status to the others ○ *The government is trying to get the rebel leaders to come to the conference table.*

rout /raʊt/ *noun* the offence of gathering together of people to do some unlawful act

Royal Assent /ˌrɔɪəl əˈsent/ *noun* the act of signing of bill by the Queen, confirming that the bill is to become law as an Act of Parliament

Royal Commission /ˌrɔɪəl kə ˈmɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a group of people specially appointed by a minister to examine and report on a major problem

Royal Courts of Justice /ˌrɔɪəl ˌkɔːts əv ˈdʒʌstɪs/ *noun* the central civil court in London, where serious claims covering fatal accidents, professional negligence, defamation, and claims against the police are heard. Abbreviation **RCJ**

Royal pardon /ˌrɔɪəl ˈpɑːd(ə)n/ *noun* a pardon whereby a person convicted of a crime is forgiven and need not serve a sentence

Royal prerogative /ˌrɔɪəl prɪ ˈrɒgətɪv/ *noun* a special right belonging only to a king or queen such as the right to appoint ministers or end a session of Parliament

royalty /ˈrɔɪəlti/ *noun* money paid to an inventor, writer, or the owner of land for the right to use his property. It is usually an agreed percentage of sales or an amount per sale. ○ *Oil royalties make up a large proportion of the country's revenue.* ○ *He is receiving royalties from his invention.*

rozzer /ˈrɒzə/ *noun* a policeman (*informal*)

RPM *abbreviation* resale price maintenance

RSC *abbreviation* Rules of the Supreme Court

rule /ruːl/ *noun* **1.** a general order of conduct which says how things should be done, e.g. an order governing voting procedure in Parliament or Congress ○ *The debate followed the rules of procedure used in the British House of Commons.* □

to work to rule to work strictly according to the rules agreed by the company and union, and therefore to work very slowly **2.** *US* a special decision made by the Rules Committee which states how a particular bill should be treated in the House of Representatives **3.** the way in which a country is governed ○ *The country has had ten years of military rule.* □ **the rule of law** principle of government that all persons and bodies and the government itself are equal before and answerable to the law and that no person shall be punished without trial **4.** a decision made by a court □ **Rule in Rylands v. Fletcher** a rule that when a person brings a dangerous thing (substance or animal) to his or her own land, and the dangerous thing escapes and causes harm, then that person is absolutely liable for the damage caused ■ *verb* **1.** to give an official decision ○ *We are waiting for the judge to rule on the admissibility of the defence evidence.* ○ *The commission of inquiry ruled that the company was in breach of contract.* **2.** to be in force or to be current ○ *prices which are ruling at the moment* **3.** to govern a country ○ *The country is ruled by a group of army officers.*

rule against perpetuities /ˌruːl əˌgenst ˌpɜːpɪtˈjuːɪtiz/ *noun* a rule that an interest can only last for a period of no more than 21 years

rule of evidence /ˌruːl əv ˈevɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* a rule established by law which determines the type of evidence which a court will consider and how such evidence must be given

Rules of the Supreme Court /ˌruːlz əv ðə sʊˌpriːm ˈkɔːt/ *plural noun* rules governing practice and procedure in the Supreme Court. Abbreviation **RSC**. ◊ **Civil Procedure Rules, County Court Rules, White Book**

ruling /ˈruːlɪŋ/ *noun* a decision made by someone with official authority such as a judge, magistrate, arbitrator or chairman ○ *According to the ruling of the court, the contract was illegal.* ■ *adjective* **1.** in power or in control ○ *the ruling Democratic Party* ○ *The actions of the ruling junta have been criticised in the press.* **2.** most important ○ *The ruling consideration is one of cost.* **3.** in operation at the moment ○ *We invoiced at ruling prices.*

runner /ˈrʌnə/ *noun* a member of a gang of pickpockets who takes the items stolen and runs away with them to a safe place (*slang*)

run-up /ˈrʌn ʌp/ *noun* □ **run-up to an election** period before an election ○ *In the run-up to the General Election, opinion polls were forecasting heavy losses for the government.*

rustle /ˈrʌs(ə)l/ *verb* to steal livestock, especially cows and horses

rustler /ˈrʌslə/ *noun* somebody who steals livestock ○ *a cattle rustler*

rustling /ˈrʌs(ə)lɪŋ/ *noun* the crime of stealing cattle or horses

S

sabotage /'sæbətɑːʒ/ *noun* malicious damage done to machines or equipment ○ *Several acts of sabotage were committed against radio stations.* (NOTE: no plural; for the plural say **acts of sabotage**)

sack /sæk/ *noun* □ **to get the sack** to be dismissed from a job ■ *verb* □ **to sack someone** to dismiss someone from a job ○ *He was sacked after being late for work.*

sacking /'sækɪŋ/ *noun* dismissal from a job ○ *The scandal led to the sacking of several employees*

safe /seɪf/ *noun* a heavy metal box which cannot be opened easily, in which valuable items such as documents or money can be kept ○ *Put the documents in the safe.* ○ *We keep the petty cash in the safe.* ■ *adjective* **1.** out of danger □ **keep the documents in a safe place** in a place where they cannot be stolen or destroyed **2.** referring to a judgment of a court which is well-based and is not likely to be quashed on appeal ○ *The court of appeal found that the original conviction was not safe.* ◊ **unsafe**

safe deposit /'seɪf dɪˌpɒzɪt/ *noun* a safe in a bank vault where you can leave jewellery or documents

safe deposit box /ˌseɪf dɪ'pɒzɪt ˌbɒks/ *noun* a small box which you can rent to keep jewellery or documents in a bank's safe

safeguard /'seɪfgɑːd/ *noun* an action or plan for doing something that prevents something unwanted from happening ○ *The proposed legislation will provide a safeguard against illegal traders.* ■ *verb* to protect someone or something against something unwanted happening ○ *The court acted to safeguard the interests of the shareholders.* ○ *The management had failed to safeguard their employees against exposure to the hazard.*

safekeeping /ˌseɪf 'kiːpɪŋ/ *noun* care and protection ○ *We put the documents into the bank for safe keeping.*

safe seat /ˌseɪf 'siːt/ *noun* a seat where the Member of Parliament has a large majority and is not likely to lose the seat at an election

safety /'seɪfti/ *noun* the situation of being free from danger or risk □ **to take safety precautions**, **safety measures** to act to make sure something is safe

safety margin /'seɪfti ˌmɑːdʒɪn/ *noun* time or space allowed for something to be safe

safety measures /'seɪfti ˌmeʒəz/ *plural noun* actions to make sure that something is or will be safe

safety regulations /'seɪfti regjʊ ˌleɪʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* rules to make a place of work safe for the workers

salary /'sælәri/ *noun* payment for work made to an employee with a contract of employment, especially in a professional or office job (NOTE: The plural is **salaries**.)

sale /seɪl/ *noun* **1.** the act of selling or transferring an item or a property from one owner to another in exchange for a consideration, usually in the form of money **2.** □ **for sale** ready to be sold □ **to offer something for sale**, **to put something up for sale** to announce that something is ready to be sold ○ *They put the factory up for sale.* **3.** the selling of goods at specially low prices ○ *The shop is having a sale to clear old stock.* ○ *The sale price is 50% of the normal price.* □ **half-price sale** sale of items at half the usual price □ **the sales** period when ma-

jor stores sell many items at specially low prices

sale and lease-back /ˌseɪl ən 'liːs bæk/ *noun* a situation where a company sells a property to raise cash and then leases it back from the purchaser

Sale of Goods Act /ˌseɪl əv 'gʊdz ˌækt/ *noun* an Act of Parliament which regulates the selling of goods but not land, copyrights or patents ○ *The law relating to the sale of goods is governed by the Sale of Goods Act.*

sale or return /ˌseɪl ɔː rɪ'tɜːn/ *noun* a system which allows unsold goods to be delivered to a person, who then has the right to keep the goods for a specified time while deciding whether or not to purchase them

sales department /'seɪlz dɪ ˌpɑːtmənt/ *noun* the section of a company which deals in selling the company's products or services

salvage /'sælvɪdʒ/ *noun* **1.** a right of a person who saves a ship from being wrecked or cargo from a ship which has been wrecked in order to receive compensation **2.** goods saved from a wrecked ship or from a fire or other accident ○ *a sale of flood salvage items* ■ *verb* to save goods or a ship from being wrecked ○ *We are selling off a warehouse full of salvaged goods.*

salvage agreement /ˌsælvɪdʒ ə 'griːmənt/ *noun* an agreement between the captain of a sinking ship and a salvage crew, giving the terms on which the ship will be saved

salvage vessel /'sælvɪdʒ ˌves(ə)l/ *noun* a ship which specialises in saving other ships and their cargoes

sample /'sɑːmpəl/ *noun* a small part of something taken to show what the whole is like ○ *They polled a sample group of voters.* ■ *verb* to take a small part of something and examine it ○ *The suspect's urine was sampled and the test proved positive.*

sanction /'sæŋkʃən/ *noun* **1.** an official order to do something ○ *You will need the sanction of the local authorities before you can knock down the office block.* ○ *The payment was made without official sanction.* **2.** *US* punishment by a court for failure to comply with an order. If the sanction is payment of costs, the party in default may obtain relief by appealing. **3.** a punishment for an act which goes against what is generally accepted behaviour □ **(economic) sanctions** restrictions on trade with a country in order to influence its political situation or in order to make its government change its policy ○ *to impose sanctions on a country* or *to lift sanctions* ■ *verb* to approve or permit something officially ○ *The board sanctioned the expenditure of £1.2m on the development plan.*

sane /seɪn/ *adjective* mentally well ○ *Was he sane when he made the will?*

sanity /'sænɪti/ *noun* the ability to make rational decisions

sans frais /ˌsænz 'freɪs/ *phrase* a French phrase meaning 'with no expense'

sans recours /ˌsænz rə'kuːəz/ *phrase* a French phrase meaning 'with no recourse': used to show that someone such as an agent acting for a principal in endorsing a bill is not responsible for paying it

satisfaction /ˌsætɪs'fækʃən/ *noun* **1.** the acceptance of money or goods by an injured party who then cannot make any further claim **2.** payment or giving of goods to someone in exchange for that person's agreement to stop a claim

satisfy /'sætɪsfaɪ/ *verb* **1.** to convince someone that something is correct ○ *When opposing bail the police had to satisfy the court that the prisoner was likely to try to leave the country.* **2.** to fulfil or to carry out fully ○ *Has he satisfied all the conditions for parole?* ○ *The company has not satisfied all the conditions laid down in the agreement.* ○ *We cannot produce enough to satisfy the demand for the product.*

scaffold /'skæfəʊld/ *noun* a raised platform on which executions take place

scale /skeɪl/ *noun* □ **large scale**, **small scale** working with large or small amounts of investment, staff, etc. □ **to start in business on a small scale** to start in business with a small staff, few products or little investment ■ *verb* □ **to scale down**, **to scale up** to lower or to increase in proportion

scale of charges /ˌskeɪl əv ˈtʒɑːdʒɪz/ *noun* a list showing various prices

scale of salaries /ˌskeɪl əv ˈsælərɪz/ *noun* a list of salaries showing different levels of pay in different jobs in the same company

scam /skæm/ *noun* a dishonest plan to deceive someone, especially in order to obtain money (*informal*)

scene-of-crime /ˌsiːn əv ˈkraɪm/ *adjective* relating or belonging to the part of the police force responsible for collecting forensic evidence at crime scenes

schedule /ˈʃedjuːl/ *noun* **1.** a plan of the times when something will happen □ **to be ahead of schedule** to be early □ **to be on schedule** to be on time □ **to be behind schedule** to be late ○ *I am sorry to say that we are three months behind schedule.* **2.** an additional document attached to a contract ○ *schedule of markets to which a contract applies* ○ *see the attached schedule* or *as per the attached schedule* ○ *the schedule before referred to* **3.** a list ○ *We publish our new schedule of charges.* (NOTE: For the schedules applying to drugs, see **drug**.) ■ *verb* **1.** to list officially ○ *scheduled prices* or *scheduled charges* **2.** to plan the time when something will happen ○ *The building is scheduled for completion in May.*

Schedule A /ˌʃedjuːl ˈeɪ/ *noun* a schedule to the Finance Acts under which tax is charged on income from land or buildings

Schedule B /ˌʃedjuːl ˈbiː/ *noun* a schedule to the Finance Acts under which tax is charged on income from woodlands

Schedule C /ˌʃedjuːl ˈsiː/ *noun* a schedule to the Finance Acts under which tax is charged on profits from government stock

Schedule D /ˌʃedjuːl ˈdiː/ *noun* a schedule to the Finance Acts under which tax is charged on income from trades, professions, interest and other earnings which do not come from employment

Schedule F /ˌʃedjuːl ˈef/ *noun* a schedule to the Finance Acts under which tax is charged on income from dividends

scheme of arrangement /ˌskiːm əv əˈreɪndʒmənt/ *noun* a scheme drawn up by an individual offering ways of paying debts and so avoiding bankruptcy proceedings

scire facias /ˌsaɪəri ˈfeɪʃiæs/ *noun* a writ that requires a defendant to appear in court to show why the plaintiff should not be permitted to take a specific legal step

scope /skəʊp/ *noun* the limits covered by something ○ *The question does not come within the scope of the authority's powers.* ○ *The Bill plans to increase the scope of the tribunal's authority.*

Scotland Yard /ˌskɒtlənd ˈjɑːd/ *noun* the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police in London

screen /skriːn/ *verb* □ **to screen candidates** to examine candidates to see if they are completely suitable

screening /ˈskriːnɪŋ/ *noun* □ **the screening of candidates** examining candidates to see if they are suitable

screw /skruː/ *noun* a prison warder (*slang*)

scrip /skrɪp/ *noun* a certificate showing that someone owns shares in a company

scuttle /ˈskʌt(ə)l/ *verb* to sink a ship deliberately by making holes in the bottom of it

seal /siːl/ *noun* **1.** a piece of wax or red paper attached to a document to show that it is legally valid **2.** a stamp printed or marked on a document to show that it is valid **3.** a mark put on a document by a court to show that it has been correctly issued by that court ○ *The document bears the court's seal and is admissible in evidence.* **4.** a piece of paper, metal or wax attached to close something, so that it can be opened only if the paper, metal or wax is removed or broken ○ *The seals on the ballot box had been tampered with.* ■ *verb* **1.** to close something tightly ○ *The computer disks were sent in a sealed container.* **2.** (*of a court*) to attach a mark to a document to show that it has been issued by that court ○ *A court must seal a claim form when it is issued.* **3.** to attach a seal ○ *The customs sealed the*

shipment. **4.** to stamp something with a seal

sealed envelope /ˌsiːld 'envələʊp/ *noun* an envelope where the back has been stuck down to close it ○ *The information was sent in a sealed envelope.*

sealed instrument /ˌsiːld 'ɪnstrʊmənt/ *noun* a document which has been signed and sealed

sealed tender /ˌsiːld 'tendə/ *noun* tenders sent in sealed envelopes, which will all be opened together at a specified time

seal off /ˌsiːl 'ɒf/ *verb* to put barriers across a street or an entrance to prevent people from going in or out ○ *Police sealed off all roads leading to the courthouse.*

search /sɜːtʃ/ *noun* an act of examining a place to try to find something. ◊ **power of search** ■ *verb* to examine a place or a person to try to find something ○ *The agent searched his files for a record of the sale.* ○ *All drivers and their cars are searched at the customs post.* ○ *The police searched the area round the house for clues.* □ **to stop and search** to stop a person in a public place and search them for weapons, implements used for burglary, stolen articles, etc.

search order /'sɜːtʃ ˌɔːdə/ *noun* an order by a court in a civil case allowing a party to inspect and photocopy or remove a defendant's documents, especially where the defendant might destroy evidence. The search should be done in the presence of an independent solicitor. (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has replaced **Anton Piller order**.)

search warrant /'sɜːtʃ ˌwɒrənt/ *noun* an official document signed by a magistrate allowing the police to enter premises and look for persons suspected of being criminals, objects which are believed to have been stolen, or dangerous or illegal substances

secede /sɪ'siːd/ *verb* to break away from an organisation or a federation ○ *The American colonies seceded from Great Britain in 1776 and formed the USA.*

secession /sɪ'seʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of seceding

second /'sekənd/ *verb* □ **to second a motion, a candidate** to agree to support a motion after it has been proposed by the proposer, but before a vote is taken ○ *The motion is proposed by Mr Smith, seconded by Mr Jones.* ○ *The name of Mr Brown has been proposed for the post of treasurer, who is going to second him?*

secondarily /ˌsekən'deərɪli/ *adverb* in second place ○ *The person making a guarantee is secondarily liable if the person who is primarily liable defaults.* ◊ **primarily**

secondary /'sekənd(ə)ri/ *adjective* second in importance

secondary action /ˌsekənd(ə)ri 'ækʃən/ *noun* the picketing of another factory or place of work which is not directly connected with a strike to prevent it supplying a striking factory or receiving supplies from it

secondary banks /ˌsekənd(ə)ri 'bæŋks/ *plural noun* companies which provide money for hire-purchase deals

secondary evidence /ˌsekənd(ə)ri 'evɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* evidence which is not the main proof, e.g. copies of documents and not the original documents themselves. Secondary evidence can be admitted if there is no primary evidence available.

secondary legislation /ˌsekənd(ə)ri ˌledʒɪ'sleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* legislation passed by the European Union, as opposed to primary legislation passed by the Member States themselves

second degree murder /ˌsekənd dɪ ˌgriː 'mɜːdə/ *noun US* the unlawful killing of a person without premeditation and not committed at the same time as rape or robbery

second mortgage /ˌsekənd 'mɔːgɪdʒ/ *noun* a further mortgage on a property which is already mortgaged. The first mortgage has prior claim.

second quarter /ˌsekənd 'kwɔːtə/ *noun* a period of three months from April to the end of June

Second Reading /ˌsekənd 'riːdɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** a detailed presentation of a Bill in the House of Commons by the respon-

sible minister, followed by a discussion and vote **2.** *US* a detailed examination of a Bill in the House of Representatives, before it is passed to the Senate

secret agent /ˌsiːkrət 'eɪdʒənt/ *noun* somebody who tries to find out information in secret about other countries, other governments or other armed forces

Secretary-General /ˌsekrətri 'dʒen(ə)rəl/ *noun* a main administrator in a large organisation such as the United Nations or a political party

Secretary of State for Defence /ˌsekrətri əv steɪt fə dɪ'fens/ *noun* a government minister in charge of the armed forces. Also called **Defence Secretary** (NOTE: The US term is **Secretary for Defense**.)

Secretary of the Treasury /ˌsekrət(ə)ri əv ðə 'treʒəri/ *noun US* a senior member of the government in charge of financial affairs

Secretary to the Senate /ˌsekrətri tə ðə 'senət/ *noun US* the head of the administrative staff in the Senate

secret police /ˌsiːkrət pə'liːs/ *noun* police officers who work in secret, especially dealing with people working against the state

section /'sekʃən/ *noun* **1.** a department in an office □ **legal section** department dealing with legal matters in a company **2.** part of an Act of Parliament or bylaw ○ *He does not qualify for a grant under section 2 of the Act.* (NOTE: When referring to a section of an act, it is abbreviated to **s**: *s 24 LGA*.)

secure /sɪ'kjʊə/ *adjective* **1.** safe from danger or harm **2.** firmly fastened or held ○ *The documents should be kept in a secure place.* ○ *The police and army have made the border secure.* ■ *verb* □ **to secure a loan** to pledge a property or other assets as a security for a loan

secured creditor /sɪˌkjʊəd 'kredɪtə/ *noun* a person who is owed money by someone and holds a mortgage or charge on that person's property as security

secured debts /sɪˌkjʊəd 'det/ *plural noun* debts which are guaranteed by assets

secured loan /sɪ'kjʊəd ləʊn/ *noun* a loan which is guaranteed by the borrower giving valuable property as security

secure investment /sɪˌkjʊə ɪn 'vestmənt/ *noun* an investment where you are not likely to lose money

secure job /sɪˌkjʊə 'dʒɒb/ *noun* a job from which you are not likely to be made redundant

secure tenant /sɪˌkjʊə 'tenənt/ *noun* a tenant of a local authority who has the right to buy the freehold of the property he or she rents at a discount

securities trader /sɪ'kjʊərɪtiz ˌtreɪdə/ *noun* somebody whose business is buying and selling stocks and shares

security /sɪ'kjʊərɪti/ *noun* **1.** safety from danger or harm **2.** the state of being protected **3.** a guarantee that someone will repay money borrowed □ **to stand security for someone** to guarantee that if the person does not repay a loan, you will repay it for him

security for costs /sɪˌkjʊərɪti fə 'kɒsts/ *noun* a guarantee that a party in a dispute will pay costs ○ *The master ordered that the claimant should deposit £2,000 as security for the defendant's costs.*

COMMENT: Where a foreign claimant or a company which may become insolvent brings proceedings against a defendant, the defendant is entitled to apply to the court for an order that the proceedings be stayed unless the claimant deposits money to secure the defendant's costs if the claimant fails in his action.

security guard /sɪ'kjʊərɪti gɑːd/ *noun* somebody whose job is to protect money, valuables or an office against possible theft or damage

security of employment /sɪ ˌkjʊərɪti əv ɪm'plɔɪmənt/ *noun* the feeling by an employee that he or she has the right to keep a job until retirement

security of tenure /sɪˌkjʊərɪti əv 'tenjə/ *noun* the right to keep a position or rented accommodation, provided that conditions are met

security printer /sɪ'kjʊərɪti ˌprɪntə/ *noun* a printer who prints paper money or material such as secret government documents

sedition /sɪ'dɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the crime of doing acts or speaking or publishing words which bring the royal family or the government into hatred or contempt and encourage civil disorder

COMMENT: Sedition is a lesser crime than treason.

seditious /sɪ'dɪʃəs/ *adjective* provoking sedition

seek /si:k/ *verb* **1.** to ask for ○ *a creditor seeking a receiving order under the Bankruptcy Act* ○ *They are seeking damages for loss of revenue.* ○ *The applicant sought judicial review to quash the order.* ○ *The Bill requires a social worker to seek permission of the Juvenile Court.* □ **to seek an interview** to ask if you can see someone ○ *she sought an interview with the minister* **2.** to look for someone or something ○ *The police are seeking a tall man who was seen near the scene of the crime.* ○ *Two men are being sought by the police.* **3.** to try to do something ○ *The local authority is seeking to place the ward of court in accommodation.* (NOTE: **seeking – sought – has sought**)

segregate /'segrɪgeɪt/ *verb* to separate or keep apart, especially to keep different ethnic groups in a country apart ○ *Single-sex schools segregate boys from girls.*

seised /si:zd/ *adjective* □ **seised of a property** being legally in possession of property

seisin /'si:zɪn/ *noun* possession of land (*feudal law*)

seizin /'si:zɪn/ *noun* another spelling of **seisin**

seizure /'si:ʒə/ *noun* the act of taking possession of something ○ *The court ordered the seizure of the shipment* or *of the company's funds.*

selection board /sɪ'lekʃən bɔ:d/ *noun* a committee which chooses a candidate for a job

selection procedure /sɪ'lekʃən prə ˌsi:dʒə/ *noun* a general method of choosing a candidate for election or for a job

self-defence /ˌself dɪ'fens/ *noun* actions or skills that you use to try to protect yourself when attacked ○ *He pleaded that he had acted in self-defence when he had hit the mugger.*

COMMENT: This can be used as a defence to a charge of a crime of violence, where the defendant pleads that his actions were attributable to defending himself rather than to a desire to commit violence.

self-incrimination /ˌself ɪnˌkrɪmɪ 'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of incriminating yourself, of saying something which shows you are guilty □ **right against self-incrimination** right not to say anything, when questioned by the police, in case you may say something which could incriminate you

sell /sel/ *verb* to transfer the ownership of property to another person in exchange for money ○ *to sell cars* or *to sell refrigerators* ○ *to sell something on credit* ○ *They have decided to sell their house.* ○ *They tried to sell their house for £100,000.* ○ *Her house is difficult to sell.* ○ *Their products are easy to sell.* □ **to sell forward** to sell foreign currency, commodities, etc., for delivery at a later date

seller /'selə/ *noun* **1.** somebody who sells ○ *There were few sellers in the market, so prices remained high.* **2.** something which sells ○ *This book is a good seller.*

selling price /'selɪŋ praɪs/ *noun* the price at which someone is willing to sell

semble /'semb(ə)l/ *noun* a French word meaning 'it appears': word used in discussing a court judgment where there is some uncertainty about what the court intended

semi-autonomous /ˌsemi ɔ: 'tɒnəməs/ *noun* with a limited amount of autonomy

senate /'senət/ *noun* **1.** an upper house of a legislative body ○ *France has a bicameral system: a lower house or Chamber of Deputies and a upper house or Senate.* **2.** *US* the upper house of the American Congress ○ *The US Senate voted against the proposal.* ○ *The Secretary of State appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.* **3.** the ruling body of a university, college or other institution

senator /'senətə/**, Senator** *noun* a member of a senate (NOTE: written with a

capital letter when used as a title: *Senator Jackson*)

senatorial /ˌsenəˈtɔːriəl/ *adjective* referring to a senate or to senators

COMMENT: The US Senate has 100 members, each state electing two senators by popular vote. Bills may be introduced in the Senate, with the exception of bills relating to finance. The Senate has the power to ratify treaties and to confirm presidential appointments to federal posts.

sender /ˈsendə/ *noun* somebody who sends a letter, parcel or message

senior /ˈsiːniə/ *adjective* **1.** more important **2.** having been employed in a job for longer than someone else

seniority /ˌsiːniˈɒrɪti/ *noun* **1.** the state of being older or more important than someone else □ **the managers were listed in order of seniority** the manager who had been an employee the longest or the manager with the most important job was put at the top of the list **2.** the fact of having been employed in a job for longer than someone else, often a reason for an employee to earn more pay than another, even if the two jobs are the same

senior manager /ˌsiːniə ˈmænɪdʒə/ *noun* a manager or director who has a higher rank than others

senior partner /ˌsiːniə ˈpɑːtnə/ *noun* somebody who has a large part of the shares in a partnership

sentence /ˈsentəns/ *noun* a legal punishment given by a court to a convicted person ○ *He received a three-year jail sentence.* ○ *The two men accused of rape face sentences of up to six years in prison.* □ **to pass sentence on someone** to give a convicted person the official legal punishment ○ *The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter and the judge will pass sentence next week.* ■ *verb* to give someone an official legal punishment ○ *The judge sentenced him to six months in prison* or *he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.* ○ *The accused was convicted of murder and will be sentenced next week.* Compare **convict**

sentencer /ˈsentənsə/ *noun* a person such as a judge who can pass a legal sentence on someone

sentencing /ˈsentənsɪŋ/ *noun* the act of giving a judicial sentence to a defendant

separate property /ˌsep(ə)rət ˈprɒpəti/ *noun US* property owned by a husband and wife before their marriage (as opposed to 'community property'). Compare **community property**

separation /ˌsepəˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** an agreement between a husband and wife to live apart from each other **2.** *US* the act of leaving a job by resigning, retiring, being fired or made redundant **3.** the act of keeping things separate from each other

COMMENT: In the USA, the three parts of the power of the state are kept separate and independent: the President does not sit in Congress; Congress cannot influence the decisions of the Supreme Court, etc. In the UK, the powers are not separated, because Parliament has both legislative powers (it makes laws) and judicial powers (the House of Lords acts as a court of appeal); the government (the executive) is not independent and is responsible to Parliament which can outvote it and so cause a general election. In the USA, members of government are not members of Congress, though their appointment has to be approved by Senate; in the UK, members of government are usually Members of Parliament, although some are members of the House of Lords.

separation of powers /ˌsepərəɪʃ(ə)n əv ˈpaʊəs/ *noun* a system in which the power in a state is separated between the legislative body which passes laws, the judiciary which enforces the law, and the executive which runs the government

seq ▸ **et seq.**

sequester /sɪˈkwestə/**, sequestrate** /ˈsiːkwɪstreɪt, sɪˈkwestreɪt/ *verb* to take and keep property because a court has ordered it

sequestration /ˌsiːkweˈstreɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the taking and keeping of property on the order of a court, especially seizing property from someone who is in contempt of court ○ *His property has been kept under sequestration.*

sequestrator /ˈsiːkwɪstreɪtə, sɪˈkwestreɪtə/ *noun* somebody who takes

and keeps property on the order of a court

seriatim /ˌsɪəri'eɪtɪm/ *Latin word meaning* 'one after the other in order'

Serious Fraud Office /ˌsɪərɪəs 'frɔːd ˌpfɪs/ *noun* a government department in charge of investigating major fraud in companies. Abbreviation **SFO**

Serjeant ➧ **Common Serjeant**

serve /sɜːv/ *verb* **1.** to deal with (a customer), to do a type of work □ **to serve articles** to work in a solicitor's office as a trainee □ **to serve on a jury** to act as a member of a jury **2.** to give someone a legal document that requires them to do something ○ *They were served notice to quit the premises in two months' time.* □ **to serve someone with a writ**, **to serve a writ on someone** to give someone an official notice of a court case which has to be defended or judgment will be taken in the person's absence **3.** to spend a period of time in prison after being sentenced to imprisonment ○ *He served six months in a local jail.* ○ *She still has half her sentence to serve.* □ **to serve time** to spend a period of time in prison for a particular crime ○ *Her brother has served time for robbery.*

service /'sɜːvɪs/ *noun* □ **service (of process)**, **personal service** the delivery of a document such as a writ or summons to someone in person or to his or her legal representative □ **to acknowledge service** to confirm that a legal document such as a claim form has been received □ **service by an alternative method** serving a legal document on someone other than by the legally prescribed method, e.g. by posting it to the last known address, or by advertising

COMMENT: The Civil Procedure Rules give five methods of service of documents: (i) personal service (i.e. physically to a person himself); (ii) by first-class post; (iii) by sending or leaving the document at an address for service; (iv) by sending the document through a document exchange; (v) by fax or other electronic means, though this method is only used in certain circumstances, such as sending documents to a legal representative. Note also that under the new rules, documents are prepared and usually served by the court itself and not by one or other of the parties concerned.

service charge /'sɜːvɪs tʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* **1.** a charge made by a landlord to cover general work done to the property such as cleaning stairs or collecting rubbish **2.** a charge made in a restaurant for serving the customer

service contract /'sɜːvɪs ˌkɒntrækt/ *noun* same as **contract of employment**

servient /'sɜːviənt/ *adjective* being less important

servient owner /ˌsɜːviənt 'əʊnə/ *noun* the owner of land over which someone else (the dominant owner) has a right to use a path

servient tenement /ˌsɜːviənt 'tenəmənt/ *noun* land over which the owner (the servient owner) grants an easement to the owner (the dominant owner) of another property (the dominant tenement)

session /'seʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the period when a group of people meets ○ *The morning session will be held at 10.30 a.m.* □ **opening session**, **closing session** first part, last part of a conference **2.** the period during which formal meetings of a body are being held ○ *The Act was passed in the last session of Parliament* or *the last Parliamentary session.* (NOTE: The Parliamentary session starts in October with the Opening of Parliament and the Queen's Speech. It usually lasts until August. In the USA, a new congressional session starts on the 3rd of January each year.) □ **in session** taking place and carrying out the usual activities

COMMENT: The Parliamentary session starts in October with the Opening of Parliament and the Queen's Speech. It usually lasts until August. In the USA, a new congressional session starts on the 3rd of January each year.

sessional Select Committee /ˌseʃ(ə)n(ə)l sɪˌlekt kə'mɪti/ *noun* a Select Committee set up at the beginning of each session of parliament ○ *the Select Committee on Defence* or *the Defence Select Committee*

sessions /'seʃ(ə)nz/ *plural noun* court

set /set/ *noun* □ **set (of chambers)** series of offices for a group of barristers who work together

set aside /ˌset əˈsaɪd/ *verb* to decide not to apply a decision, or to cancel an order, judgment or step taken by a party in legal proceedings ○ *The arbitrator's award was set aside on appeal.*

set down /ˌset ˈdaʊn/ *verb* to arrange for a trial to take place by putting it on one of the lists of trials ○ *Pleadings must be submitted to the court when the action is set down for trial.*

set forth /ˌset ˈfɔːθ/ *verb* to put down in writing ○ *The argument is set forth in the document from the European Court.*

set-off /ˈset ɒf/ *noun* a counterclaim by a defendant which should be deducted from the sum being claimed by the claimant

set out /ˌset ˈaʊt/ *verb* **1.** to put down in writing ○ *The claim is set out in the enclosed document.* ○ *The figures are set out in the tables at the back of the book.* **2.** to try to do something ○ *Counsel for the prosecution has set out to discredit the defence witness.*

settle /ˈset(ə)l/ *verb* **1.** □ **to settle an account** to pay what is owed □ **to settle a claim** to agree to pay what is asked for ○ *The insurance company refused to settle his claim for storm damage.* □ **the two parties settled out of court** the two parties reached an agreement privately without continuing the court case **2.** □ **to settle property on someone** to arrange for land to be passed to trustees to keep for the benefit of future owners **3.** to write out in final form ○ *Counsel is instructed to settle the defence.*

settled land /ˌset(ə)ld ˈlænd/ *noun* land which is subject of a settlement

settlement /ˈset(ə)lmənt/ *noun* **1.** payment of an account □ **our basic discount is 20% but we offer an extra 5% for rapid settlement** we take a further 5% off the price if the customer pays quickly **2.** an agreement reached after an argument □ **to effect a settlement between two parties** to bring two parties together and make them agree to a settlement □ **to accept something in full settlement** to accept money or service from a debtor and agree that it covers all the claim **3.** an arrangement where land is passed to trustees to keep for the benefit of future owners

settlement day /ˈset(ə)lmənt deɪ/ *noun* the day when accounts have to be settled

settle on /ˈset(ə)l ɒn/ *verb* to leave property to someone when you die ○ *He settled his property on his children.*

settlor /ˈset(ə)lə/ *noun* somebody who settles property on someone

sever /ˈsevə/ *verb* to split off from the rest ○ *The property was severed from the rest of his assets and formed a specific legacy to his friend.*

severable /ˈsev(ə)rəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being able to be divided off from the rest ○ *the deceased's severable share of a joint property*

several /ˈsev(ə)rəl/ *adjective* **1.** some ○ *Several judges are retiring this year.* ○ *Several of our clients have received long prison sentences.* **2.** separate

severally /ˈsev(ə)rəli/ *adverb* separately or not jointly □ **they are jointly and severally liable** they are liable both together as a group and as individuals

several tenancy /ˌsev(ə)rəl ˈtenənsi/ *noun* the holding of property by a number of people, each separately and not jointly with any other person

severance /ˈsev(ə)rəns/ *noun* **1.** the ending of a joint tenancy **2.** the ending of a contract of employment

severance pay /ˈsev(ə)rəns peɪ/ *noun* money paid as compensation to someone who is losing his or her job

sexual /ˈsekʃuəl/ *adjective* relating to the two sexes

sexual discrimination /ˌsekʃuəl dɪskrɪmɪˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the unfair treatment of someone because of their sex, either before or after entering a contract of employment or during the course of their employment. It may be 'direct' or 'indirect'.

sexual intercourse /ˌsekʃuəl ˈɪntəkɔːs/ *noun* a sexual act between a man and a woman ○ *Sexual intercourse with a girl under sixteen is an offence.*

sexual offence /ˌsekʃuəl əˈfens/ *noun* criminal acts where sexual intercourse takes place, e.g. rape, incest

SFO *abbreviation* Serious Fraud Office

shady /'ʃeɪdi/ *adjective* not honest ○ *a shady deal*

sham /ʃæm/ *adjective* false or not true

share capital /'ʃeə ˌkæpɪt(ə)l/ *noun* the value of the assets of a company held as shares

share certificate /'ʃeə səˌtɪfɪkət/ *noun* a document proving that you own shares

shareholder /'ʃeəhəʊldə/ *noun* somebody who owns shares in a company

shareholders' agreement /ˌʃeəhəʊldəz əˈgriːmənt/ *noun* an agreement showing the rights of shareholders in a company

shareholders' equity /ˌʃeəhəʊldəz 'ekwɪti/ *noun* the amount of a company's capital which is owned by shareholders

share option /'ʃeər ˌɒpʃən/ *noun* the right to buy or sell shares at a specific price at a time in the future

share quoted ex dividend /ʃeə ˌkwəʊtɪd eks 'dɪvɪdend/ *noun* a share price not including the right to receive the next dividend

sharp practice /ˌʃɑːp 'præktɪs/ *noun* a way of doing business which is not honest or fair, but is not illegal

sheriff /'ʃerɪf/ *noun* **1.** *US* an official in charge of justice in a county (NOTE: At federal level, the equivalent is a **marshal**.) **2.** (*in Scotland*) the chief judge in a district

Sheriff Court /'ʃerɪf kɔːt/ *noun* a court presided over by a sheriff

sheriff's sale /'ʃerɪfs ˌseɪl/ *noun* a public sale of the goods of a person whose property has been seized by the courts because he or she has defaulted on payments

shipper /'ʃɪpə/ *noun* a person who sends goods or who organises the sending of goods for other customers

shipping agent /'ʃɪpɪŋ ˌeɪdʒənt/ *noun* a company which specialises in the sending of goods

shipping company /'ʃɪpɪŋ ˌkʌmp(ə)ni/ *noun* a company which owns ships

shipwreck /'ʃɪprek/ *noun* the action of sinking or badly damaging a ship

shoot /ʃuːt/ *verb* **1.** to fire a gun **2.** to hit or kill a person or animal by firing a gun

shootout /'ʃuːtaʊt/ *noun* a fight between people who are using guns

shop /ʃɒp/ *verb* □ **to shop (for) something** to look for things in shops

shoplifter /'ʃɒplɪftə/ *noun* somebody who steals goods from shops ○ *At Christmas time gangs of shoplifters target the stores in Oxford Street.*

shoplifting /'ʃɒplɪftɪŋ/ *noun* the offence of stealing goods from shops, by taking them when the shop is open and not paying for them

Short Cause List /ˌʃɔːt 'kɔːz ˌlɪst/ *noun* the set of cases to be heard in the Queen's Bench Division which the judge thinks are not likely to take very long to hear

shorthand writer /ˌʃɔːthænd 'raɪtə/ *noun* somebody who takes down in shorthand evidence or a judgment given in court

shorthold tenancy /ˌʃɔːthəʊld 'tenənsi/ *noun* a protected tenancy for a limited period of less than five years

short lease /ˌʃɔːt 'liːs/ *noun* a lease which runs for up to two or three years ○ *to rent office space on a twenty-year lease* ○ *We have a short lease on our current premises.*

short sharp shock /ˌʃɔːt ˌʃɑːp 'ʃɒk/ *noun* formerly, a type of punishment for young offenders where they were subjected to harsh discipline for a short period in a detention centre

short title /ˌʃɔːt 'taɪt(ə)l/ *noun* the usual name by which an Act of Parliament is known

show of hands /ˌʃəʊ əv 'hændz/ *noun* a way of casting votes where people show how they vote by raising their hands ○ *The motion was carried on a show of hands.*

shrink-wrap licence /ʃrɪŋk ræp 'laɪs(ə)ns/**, license** /'laɪs(ə)ns/ *noun* a manufacturer's licence applied to software sold to a customer under which the manufacturer grants only limited warranty over the product

COMMENT: In general, the customer does not own the software he has bought, and the manufacturer has no liability for damages consequent on using the product.

SI *abbreviation* statutory instrument

sic /sɪk/ *noun* used to show that this was the way a word was actually written in the document in question even if it looks like a mistake ○ *The letter stated 'my legal adviser intends to apply for attack (sic) of earnings'.*

sick leave /'sɪk liːv/ *noun* a period when an employee is away from work because of illness

sight draft /'saɪt drɑːft/ *noun* a bill of exchange which is payable when it is presented

signatory /'sɪgnət(ə)ri/ *noun* a person who signs an official document such as a contract ○ *You have to get the permission of all the signatories to the agreement if you want to change the terms.*

signature /'sɪgnɪtʃə/ *noun* **1.** a surname and personal name or initials written by person in the same typical way every time they sign a document so that it can be recognised as belonging only to that person ○ *a pile of letters waiting for the managing director's signature* ○ *The contract has been engrossed ready for signature.* ○ *A will needs the signature of the testator and two witnesses.* ○ *All the company's cheques need two signatures.* ◊ **electronic signature 2.** the action of signing a document ○ *Are the letters ready for signature yet?*

silk /sɪlk/ *noun* □ **a silk** a Queen's Counsel (*informal*) □ **to take silk** to become a QC

similiter /sɪ'mɪlɪtə/ *adverb* a Latin word meaning 'similarly' or 'in a similar way'

simple contract /ˌsɪmpəl 'kɒntrækt/ *noun* a contract which is not under seal, but is made orally or in writing. Compare **contract under seal**

sine die /ˌsiːni 'diːeɪ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'with no day' □ **the hearing was adjourned sine die** the hearing was adjourned without saying when it would meet again

sine qua non /ˌsɪni kwɑː 'nɒn/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'without which nothing': condition without which something cannot work ○ *Agreement by the management is a sine qua non of all employment contracts.*

sinking fund /'sɪŋkɪŋ fʌnd/ *noun* a fund built up out of amounts of money put aside regularly to meet a future need

sit-down protest /'sɪt daʊn ˌprəʊtest/ *noun* an action by members of the staff who occupy their place of work and refuse to leave

sitting /'sɪtɪŋ/ *noun* a meeting of a court, tribunal or parliament (NOTE: There are four sittings in the legal year: **Michaelmas, Hilary, Easter** and **Trinity**.)

sittings /'sɪtɪŋz/ *plural noun* periods when courts sit

sitting tenant /ˌsɪtɪŋ 'tenənt/ *noun* a tenant who is living in a house when the freehold or lease is sold

situate /'sɪtʃueɪtɪd/**, situated** *adjective* in a specific place ○ *a freehold property situated in the borough of Richmond*

situations vacant /ˌsɪtʃueɪʃ(ə)nz 'veɪkənt/ *plural noun* a list of jobs which are available

skeleton /'skelɪt(ə)n/ *noun* the basic details of something

skeleton key /ˌskelɪt(ə)n 'kiː/ *noun* a key which will fit several different doors in a building

skimming /'skɪmɪŋ/ *noun* the crime of fraudulently reusing the electronic information from a swiped credit card or payment card

slander /'slɑːndə/ *noun* an untrue spoken statement which damages someone's character. ◊ **defamation of character** □ **action for slander**, **slander action** case in a law court where someone says that another person had slandered him ■ *verb* □ **to slander someone** to damage someone's character by saying untrue things about him. Compare **libel**

slanderous /'slɑːnd(ə)rəs/ *adjective* being slander ○ *He made slanderous statements about the Prime Minister on television.*

slip /slɪp/ *noun* **1.** a small piece of paper, especially a note of the details of a marine insurance policy ○ *He handed a slip of paper to the person sitting next to*

him. **2.** a slip of paper used for a particular purpose ○ *a voting slip* **3.** a small mistake ○ *He made a couple of slips in repeating what he had said the day before.*

slip law /'slɪp lɔː/ *noun US* a law published for the first time after it has been approved, printed on a single sheet of paper or as a small separate booklet

slip rule /'slɪp ruːl/ *noun* the name for one of the Rules of the Supreme Court allowing minor errors to be corrected on pleadings

small ads /'smɔːl ædz/ *plural noun* short private advertisements in a newspaper selling small items, offering or requesting jobs, etc.

small claim /ˌsmɔːl 'kleɪm/ *noun* a claim for less than £5000 in the County Court

small claims court /ˌsmɔːl 'kleɪmz ˌkɔːt/ *noun* a court which deals with disputes over small amounts of money

small claims track /ˌsmɔːl 'kleɪmz ˌtræk/ *noun* the case management system which applies to claims under £5,000

COMMENT: The aim of the small claims track is to deal with disputes as rapidly as possible, especially where the litigants appear in person. Lawyers are discouraged, but lay representatives can appear. There is only a limited right of appeal in this track.

smuggle /'smʌg(ə)l/ *verb* to take goods into or out of a country without declaring them to the customs ○ *They had to smuggle the spare parts into the country.*

smuggler /'smʌglə/ *noun* somebody who smuggles

smuggling /'smʌglɪŋ/ *noun* the offence of taking goods illegally into or out of a country, without paying any tax ○ *He made his money in arms smuggling.*

snatch squad /'snætʃ skwɒd/ *noun* a group of police officers trained to find and arrest the leaders of groups causing public disorder

snatch theft /'snætʃ θeft/ *noun* the theft of an item of personal property such as a bag or mobile phone in a public place

social advantage /ˌsəʊʃ(ə)l əd 'vɑːntɪdʒ/ *noun* a benefit which some people are given, e.g. a bus pass given to a retired person or a special loan given to a family with many children

social class /ˌsəʊʃ(ə)l 'klɑːs/ *noun* a group of people who have a position in society

social ownership /ˌsəʊʃ(ə)l 'əʊnəʃɪp/ *noun* a situation where an industry is nationalised and run by a board appointed by the government

social worker /'səʊʃ(ə)l ˌwɜːkə/ *noun* somebody who works in a social services department, visiting and looking after people who need help

SOCO /'sɒkəʊ/ *noun* a police officer responsible for collecting forensic evidence. Full form **scene of crime officer**

sodomy /'sɒdəmi/ *noun* same as **buggery**

soft loan /ˌsɒft 'ləʊn/ *noun* a loan from a company to an employee or from one government to another with no interest payable

sole /səʊl/ *adjective* only

solemn /'sɒləm/ *adjective* □ **solemn and binding agreement** agreement which is not legally binding, but which all parties are supposed to obey

sole owner /ˌsəʊl 'əʊnə/ *noun* a person who owns a business and has no partners

sole trader /ˌsəʊl 'treɪdə/ *noun* a person who runs a business, usually without partners, but has not registered it as a company

solicit /sə'lɪsɪt/ *verb* **1.** □ **to solicit orders** to ask for orders, to try to get people to order goods **2.** to ask for something immoral, especially to offer to provide sexual intercourse for money

soliciting /sə'lɪsɪtɪŋ/ *noun* the offence of offering to provide sexual intercourse for money

solicitor /sə'lɪsɪtə/ *noun* a lawyer who has passed the examinations of the Law Society and has a valid certificate to practise, who gives advice to members of the public and acts for them in legal matters, and who may have right of audience in some courts □ **to instruct a solicitor** to give orders to a solicitor to act on your behalf □ **the Official Solicitor** solicitor

who acts in the High Court for parties who have no one to act for them, usually because they are under an official disability

COMMENT: Solicitors of ten years standing can be appointed as judges. Solicitor-advocates are fully qualified solicitors who have taken additional advocacy exams. Solicitor-advocates have the same rights of audience as barristers.

Solicitor-General /səˌlɪsɪtə ˈdʒen(ə)rəl/ *noun* one of the law officers, a Member of the House of Commons and deputy to the Attorney-General

Solicitor-General for Scotland /səˌlɪsɪtə ˌdʒen(ə)rəl fə ˈskɒtlənd/ *noun* a junior law officer in Scotland

solicitors' charges /səˈlɪsɪtəz ˌtʃɑːdʒɪz/ *plural noun* payments to be made to solicitors for work done on behalf of clients

solitary confinement /ˌsɒlɪt(ə)ri kənˈfaɪnmənt/ *noun* the practice of keeping someone alone in a cell, without being able to see or speak to other prisoners ○ *He was kept in solitary confinement for six months.*

solus agreement /ˌsəʊləs əˈgriːmənt/ *noun* an agreement where one party is linked only to the other party, especially an agreement where a retailer buys all their stock from a single supplier

solvency /ˈsɒlv(ə)nsi/ *noun* the ability to pay all debts. ◊ **insolvency**

solvent /ˈsɒlv(ə)nt/ *adjective* having enough money to pay debts ○ *When he bought the company it was barely solvent.* ■ *noun* a powerful glue

solvent abuse /ˈsɒlvənt əˌbjuːs/ *noun* the activity of sniffing solvent, which acts as a hallucinatory drug

SOSR *abbreviation* some other substantial reason

sought /sɔːt/ ◗ **seek**

sound /saʊnd/ *adjective* reliable, effective or thorough ○ *The company's financial situation is very sound.* ○ *The solicitor gave us some very sound advice.* ○ *The evidence brought forward by the police is not very sound.* □ **of sound mind** sane, mentally well ○ *He was of sound mind when he wrote the will.*

soundness /ˈsaʊndnəs/ *noun* the fact of being reasonable

source /sɔːs/ *noun* a place where something comes from ○ *source of income* ○ *You must declare income from all sources to the Inland Revenue.* □ **income which is taxed at source** where the tax is removed before the income is paid

South-Eastern Circuit /saʊθ ˌiːst(ə)n ˈsɜːkɪt/ *noun* one of the six circuits of the Crown Court to which barristers belong, with its centre in London

sovereign /ˈsɒvrɪn/ *adjective* having complete freedom to govern itself

sovereign immunity /ˌsɒvrɪn ɪˈmjuːnɪti/ *noun* immunity of a foreign head of state or former head of state from prosecution outside his or her country for crimes committed inside his or her country in the course of exercising public function

sovereign rights /ˌsɒvrɪn ˈraɪts/ *noun* the rights of a state, which are limited by the application of EU law

Speaker /ˈspiːkə/ *noun* somebody who presides over a meeting of a parliament □ **discussions held behind the Speaker's chair** informal discussions between representatives of opposing political parties meeting on neutral ground away from the floor of the House

COMMENT: In the House of Commons, the speaker is an ordinary Member of Parliament chosen by the other members; the equivalent in the House of Lords is the Lord Chancellor. In the US Congress, the speaker of the House of Representatives is an ordinary congressman, elected by the other congressmen; the person presiding over meetings of the Senate is the Vice-President.

Speaker's Chaplain /ˌspiːkəz ˈtʃæplɪn/ *noun* a priest who reads prayers at the beginning of each sitting of the House of Commons

special /ˈspeʃ(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to one particular thing

special agent /ˌspeʃ(ə)l ˈeɪdʒənt/ *noun* **1.** a person who represents someone in a particular matter **2.** a person who does secret work for a government

Special Branch /ˈspeʃ(ə)l brɑːnʃ/ *noun* a department of the British police which deals with terrorism

special constable /ˌspeʃ(ə)l 'kʌnstəb(ə)l/ *noun* a part-time policeman who works mainly at weekends or on important occasions

special damages /ˌspeʃ(ə)l 'dæmɪdʒɪz/ *plural noun* damages awarded by court to compensate for a loss such as the expense of repairing something, which can be calculated (NOTE: Damages are noted at the end of a report on a case as: *Special damages: £100; General damages: £2,500.*)

special deposits /ˌspeʃ(ə)l dɪ 'pɒzɪts/ *plural noun* large sums of money which banks have to deposit with the Bank of England

special directions /ˌspeʃ(ə)l daɪ 'rekʃənz/ *plural noun* instructions given by a court in a specific case, which are additional to the standard instructions

special indorsement /ˌspeʃ(ə)l ɪn 'dɔːsmənt/ *noun* full details of a claim involving money, land or goods which a claimant is trying to recover

specialise /'speʃəlaɪz/ *verb* **1.** to study one particular subject ○ *He specialised in employment cases.* **2.** to produce one thing in particular ○ *The company specialises in electronic components.* (NOTE: **specialised - specialising**)

special procedure /ˌspeʃ(ə)l prə 'siːdʒə/ *noun* a special system for dealing quickly with undefended divorce cases whereby the parties can obtain a divorce without the necessity of a full trial

special resolution /ˌspeʃ(ə)l ˌrezə 'luːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a resolution of the members of a company which is only valid if it is approved by 75% of the votes cast at a meeting

COMMENT: 21 days' notice that special resolution will be put to a meeting must be given. A special resolution might deal with an important matter, such as a change to the company's articles of association, a change of the company's name, or of the objects of the company.

special sessions /ˌspeʃ(ə)l 'seʃ(ə)ns/ *plural noun* a Magistrates' Court for a district which is held for a special unusual reason

specialty contract /ˌspeʃ(ə)lti kən 'trækt/ *noun* a contract made under seal

specific devise /spəˌsɪfɪk dɪ'vaɪz/ *noun* devise of a specified property to someone

specific disclosure /spəˌsɪfɪk dɪs 'kləʊʒə/ *noun* an order by a court for a party to disclose specific documents or to search for them and disclose them if they are found to exist

specific legacy /spəˌsɪfɪk 'legəsi/ *noun* a legacy of a specific item to someone in a will

specific performance /spəˌsɪfɪk pə 'fɔːməns/ *noun* a court order to a party to carry out his or her obligations in a contract

specimen /'spesɪmɪn/ *noun* something which is given as a sample □ **to give specimen signatures on a bank mandate** to write the signatures of all people who can sign cheques on an account so that the bank can recognise them

speeding /'spiːdɪŋ/ *noun* an offence committed when driving a vehicle faster than the speed limit ○ *He was booked for speeding.*

spent conviction /ˌspent kən 'vɪkʃən/ *noun* a conviction for which an accused person has been sentenced in the past and which must not be referred to in open court when trying a different case

sphere of influence /ˌsfɪə əv 'ɪnfluəns/ *noun* an area of the world where a very strong country can exert powerful influence over other states ○ *Some Latin American states fall within the USA's sphere of influence.*

splendid isolation /ˌsplendɪd ˌaɪsə 'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a policy where a country refuses to link with other countries in treaties

spoils of war /ˌspɔɪlz əv 'wɔː/ *plural noun* goods or valuables taken by an army from an enemy

spoilt ballot paper /spɔɪlt ˌbælət 'peɪpə/ *noun* a voting paper which has not been filled in correctly by the voter (NOTE: **spoiling – spoiled** *or* **spoilt**)

spokesperson /'spəʊksˌpɜːs(ə)n/ *noun* somebody who speaks in public on behalf of a group (NOTE: The word **spokesperson** is now often used, as it

avoids making a distinction between men and women.)

spot price /'spɒt praɪs/ *noun* the price for immediate delivery of a commodity

spouse /spaʊs/ *noun* **1.** a husband or wife **2.** a person who is married to another person

springing use /ˌsprɪŋɪŋ 'juːs/ *noun* a use which will come into effect if something happens in the future

spy /spaɪ/ *noun* somebody who tries to find out secrets about another country ○ *He spent many years as a spy for the enemy.* ○ *He was arrested as a spy.* ■ *verb* **1.** to watch another country secretly to get information ○ *She was accused of spying for the enemy.* **2.** to see □ **I spy strangers** words said by an MP when he or she wants to tell the Speaker to clear the public galleries

squad /skwɒd/ *noun* **1.** a special group of police **2.** a special group of soldiers or workers

squad car /'skwɒd kɑː/ *noun* a police patrol car

square measure /ˌskweə 'meʒə/ *noun* area in square feet or metres, calculated by multiplying width and length

squat /skwɒt/ *verb* to occupy premises belonging to another person unlawfully and without title or without paying rent (NOTE: **squatting – squatted**)

squatter /'skwɒtə/ *noun* somebody who squats in someone else's property

COMMENT: If a squatter has lived on the premises for a long period (over 12 years) and the owner has not tried to evict him or her, he or she may have rights over the premises.

squatter's rights /'skwɒtəz ˌraɪts/ *plural noun* rights of a person who is squatting in another person's property to remain in unlawful possession of premises until ordered to leave by a court

squeal /skwiːl/ *verb* to inform the police about other criminals (*slang*)

squire /'skwaɪə/ *noun US* a local legal official such as a magistrate

stabvest /'stæbvest/ *noun* a padded waistcoat, designed to protect a police or security officer against attacks with knives

staff turnover /ˌstɑːf 'tɜːnəʊvə/ *noun* the regular changes in staff that occur in a workplace, when some leave and others join

stakeholder /'steɪkhəʊldə/ *noun* **1.** someone with a personal interest in how something happens **2.** a person or group of people who have invested in and own part of a business **3.** a person who holds money impartially, such as money deposited by one of the parties to a wager, until it has to be given it up to another party

stakeholder pension /'steɪkhəʊldə ˌpenʃən/ *noun* a pension scheme available to employees through their employer, although the employer does not have to contribute any funds to it

stamp duty /'stæmp ˌdjuːti/ *noun* a tax on documents recording legal activities such as the conveyance of a property to a new owner or the contract for the purchase of shares

stamped addressed envelope /ˌstæmpd əˌdresd 'envələʊp/ *noun* an envelope with your own address written on it and a stamp stuck on it to pay for the return postage

stand /stænd/ *noun* **1.** an active campaign against something ○ *the government's stand against racial prejudice* ○ *The police chief criticised the council's stand on law and order.* **2.** the position of a member of Congress on a question (either for or against) **3.** □ **to take the stand** to go into the witness box to give evidence ■ *verb* **1.** to offer yourself as a candidate in an election ○ *He stood as a Liberal candidate in the General Election.* ○ *He is standing against the present deputy leader in the leadership contest.* ○ *She was persuaded to stand for parliament.* ○ *He has stood for office several times, but has never been elected.* **2.** to exist, to be in a state ○ *The report stood referred to the Finance Committee.* (NOTE: **standing – stood**)

standard /'stændəd/ *noun* the normal quality or normal conditions against which other things are judged □ **production standards** quality of production □ **up to standard** of acceptable quality

standard agreement /ˌstændəd əˈgriːmənt/ *noun* a normal printed contract form

standard directions /ˌstændəd daɪˈrekʃənz/ *plural noun* directions as laid out in the practice direction for a particular track

standard disclosure /ˌstændəd dɪsˈkləʊʒə/ *noun* a statement by a party about the existence of documents which will support his case, or which do not support his case, or which will support the case of the other party

standard form contract /ˌstændəd fɔːm ˈkɒntrækt/ *noun* a contract which states the conditions of carrying out a common commercial arrangement such as chartering a ship

standard letter /ˌstændəd ˈletə/ *noun* a letter which is sent with only minor changes to various correspondents

standard of living /ˌstændəd əv ˈlɪvɪŋ/ *noun* a quality of personal home life such as amount of food or clothes bought or the size of a family car

standard rate /ˈstændəd reɪt/ *noun* a general level of tax such as the level of income tax which is paid by most taxpayers or the level of VAT which is levied on most goods and services

Standard Time /ˈstændəd taɪm/ *noun* normal time as in the winter months

stand down /ˌstænd ˈdaʊn/ *verb* to withdraw your name from an election ○ *The wife of one of the candidates is ill and he has stood down.*

standi ◗ **locus standi**

stand in for /ˌstænd ɪn fɔː/ *verb* to take the place of someone ○ *Mr Smith is standing in for the chairman who is away on holiday.*

standing /ˈstændɪŋ/ *adjective* permanent ■ *noun* good reputation ○ *the financial standing of a company*

standing committee /ˈstændɪŋ kəˌmɪti/ *noun* a permanent committee which deals with matters not given to other committees, e.g. a parliamentary committee which examines Bills not sent to other committees

standing orders /ˌstændɪŋ ˈɔːdəz/ *plural noun* rules or regulations which control the conduct of any official institution or committee

stand over /ˌstænd ˈəʊvə/ *verb* to adjourn ○ *The case has been stood over to next month.*

Star Chamber /ˈstɑːˌtʃeɪmbə/ *noun* formerly, a royal court which tried cases without a jury

stare decisis /ˌsteəriː dɪˈsaɪsɪs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'stand by preceding decisions': principle that courts must abide by precedents set by judgments made in higher courts

state /steɪt/ *noun* **1.** a semi-independent section of a federal country such as the USA **2.** the government of a country □ **offence against the state** an act of attacking the lawful government of a country, e.g. sedition, treason ■ *verb* to say clearly ○ *The document states that all revenue has to be declared to the tax office.*

state capital /ˌsteɪt ˈkæpɪt(ə)l/ *noun* the main town in a state or province

State Capitol /ˌsteɪt ˈkæpɪt(ə)l/ *noun* in the USA, a building which houses the State legislature in the main city of a state

state-controlled /ˈsteɪt kənˌtrəʊld/ *adjective* run by the state ○ *state-controlled television*

state enterprise /ˌsteɪt ˈentəpraɪz/ *noun* a company run by the state ○ *The bosses of state industries are appointed by the government.*

stateless person /ˌsteɪtləs ˈpɜːs(ə)n/ *noun* somebody who is not a citizen of any state

statement /ˈsteɪtmənt/ *noun* **1.** an announcement of something in public ○ *The company issued a statement denying the allegations.* ○ *The celebrity's manager made a brief statement to the press.* **2.** a formal account of what happened or what was seen at a particular time, given to the police who are investigating a crime □ **to make a statement** to give details of something to the police □ **to make a false statement** to give wrong details to the police about something that happened or was seen **3.** the presentation of information about something □ **statements of case** (*in a civil court*) docu-

ments relating to a claim, including the claim form, the particulars of claim, the defence and counterclaim, the reply and the defence to the counterclaim □ **statement of claim** a pleading containing details of a claimant's case and the relief sought against the defendant □ **statement of truth** a statement attached to a claim form or the particulars of claim by which the claimant or defendant states that he believes that the facts given are true (if it can be proved that he signed the statement without believing it to be true, he is guilty of contempt of court) □ **statement of value** a document filed by the claimant as part of his claim, detailing the value of the claim, or a document filed by the defendant giving his estimate of value in reply to the claim **4.** a document that shows the amount of money in a bank account or information about business accounts ○ *a financial statement* ○ *a monthly statement*

statement of account /ˌsteɪtmənt əv əˈkaʊnt/ *noun* a list of invoices and credits and debits sent by a supplier to a customer at the end of each month

statement of affairs /ˌsteɪtmənt əv əˈfeəz/ *noun* an official statement made by an insolvent company, listing its assets and liabilities

statement of claim /ˌsteɪtmənt əv ˈkleɪm/ *noun* ➧ **particulars of claim** (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has been replaced by **particulars of claim**.)

Statement of Means /ˌsteɪtmənt əv ˈmiːnz/ *noun* a statement showing the financial position of the claimant, attached to an application for Legal Aid

statement of truth /ˌsteɪtmənt əv ˈtruːθ/ *noun* a statement attached to a claim form or the particulars of a claim by which the claimant or defendant states that he or she believes that the facts given are true. If it can be proved that the statement was signed without believing it to be true, the claimant is guilty of contempt of court.

statement of value /ˌsteɪtmənt əv ˈvæljuː/ *noun* a document filed by the claimant as part of a claim, detailing the value of the claim, or a document filed by the defendant giving an estimate of value in reply to the claim

statements of case /ˌsteɪtmənts əv ˈkeɪs/ *plural noun* documents relating to a claim, including the claim form, the particulars of claim, the defence and counterclaim, the reply and the defence to the counterclaim (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has replaced **pleadings**.)

state of indebtedness /ˌsteɪt əv ɪn ˈdetɪdnəs/ *noun* the state of owing money

state of repair /ˌsteɪt əv rɪˈpeə/ *noun* the physical condition of something ○ *The house was in a bad state of repair when he bought it.*

State of the Union message /steɪt əv ðə ˌjuːnjən ˈmesɪdʒ/ *noun US* an annual speech by the President of the USA which summarises the political situation in the country

States of the Union /ˌsteɪts əv ðə ˈjuːnjən/ *plural noun* the states joined together to form the United States of America

statistical discrepancy /stə ˌtɪstɪk(ə)l dɪˈskrepənsi/ *noun* the amount by which two sets of figures differ

statistics /stəˈtɪstɪks/ *plural noun* study of facts in the form of figures ○ *He asked for the birth statistics for 1998.* ○ *Council statistics show that the amount of rented property in the borough has increased.* ○ *Government trade statistics show that exports to the EC have fallen over the last six months.*

status inquiry /ˈsteɪtəs ɪnˌkwaɪəri/ *noun* a request for a check on a customer's credit rating

status quo /ˌsteɪtəs ˈkwəʊ/ *noun* the state of things as they are now ○ *The contract does not alter the status quo.*

status quo ante /ˌsteɪtəs ˌkwəʊ ˈænti/ *noun* the situation as it was before

statute /ˈstætʃuːt/ *noun* an established written law, especially an Act of Parliament

statute-barred /ˌstætʃuːt ˈbɑːd/ *adjective* being unable to take place be-

cause the time laid down in the statute of limitations has expired

statute book /'stætʃuːt bʊk/ *noun* all laws passed by Parliament which are still in force

statute of limitations /ˌstætʃuːt əv ˌlɪmɪ'teɪʃ(ə)nz/ *noun* a law which allows only a certain amount of time (usually six years) for someone to start legal proceedings to claim property or compensation for damage, etc.

statutorily /'stætʃʊt(ə)rɪli/ *adverb* by statute ○ *a statutorily protected tenant*

statutory /'stætʃʊt(ə)ri/ *adjective* fixed by law or by a statute ○ *powers conferred on an authority by the statutory code* ○ *There is a statutory period of probation of thirteen weeks.* ○ *The authority has a statutory obligation to provide free education to all children.*

statutory books /ˌstætʃʊt(ə)ri 'bʊks/ *plural noun* official registers which a company must keep

statutory declaration /ˌstætʃʊt(ə)ri ˌdeklə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a statement made to the Registrar of Companies that a company has complied with certain legal conditions **2.** a declaration signed and witnessed for official purposes

statutory duty /ˌstætʃʊt(ə)ri 'djuːti/ *noun* a duty which someone must perform and which is laid down by statute

statutory holiday /ˌstætʃʊt(ə)ri 'hɒlɪdeɪ/ *noun* a holiday which is fixed by law

statutory instrument /ˌstætʃʊt(ə)ri 'ɪnstrʊmənt/ *noun* an order with the force of law made under authority granted to a minister by an Act of Parliament. Abbreviation **SI**

statutory legacy /ˌstætʃʊt(ə)ri 'legəsi/ *noun* the amount of money which is distributed to a surviving spouse of a person who dies intestate and has other surviving relatives but no surviving children

statutory trust /ˌstætʃʊt(ə)ri 'trʌst/ *noun* an arrangement for holding property on behalf of the children of a person who has died intestate

statutory undertakers /ˌstætʃʊt(ə)ri ˌʌndə'teɪkəz/ *plural noun* bodies formed by statute and having legal duties to provide services such as gas, electricity or water

statutory will /ˌstætʃʊt(ə)ri 'wɪl/ *noun* a will made on behalf of a person who is judged unable to do so themselves on the instructions of the Court of Protection

stay /steɪ/ *noun* the temporary stopping of an order made by a court ■ *verb* to stop an action temporarily ○ *The defendant made an application to stay the proceedings until the claimant gave security for costs.* ○ *One of the parties asked for the action to be stayed for a month to allow for a settlement to be attempted.*

stay away order /ˌsteɪ ə'weɪ ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a court order that tells someone to have no contact or communication with another person

stay of execution /ˌsteɪ əv eksɪ 'kjuːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a temporary prevention of someone from enforcing a judgment ○ *The court granted the company a two-week stay of execution.* ○ *The stay was extended for a further four weeks.*

stay of proceedings /ˌsteɪ əv prə 'siːdɪŋz/ *noun* the stopping of a case which is being heard ○ *Proceedings will continue when the stay is lifted.*

steal /stiːl/ *verb* to take something which does not belong to you ○ *Two burglars broke into the office and stole the petty cash.* ○ *One of our managers left to form her own company and stole the list of our clients' addresses.* ○ *One of our biggest problems is stealing in the wine department.* □ **handling, receiving stolen goods** the offence of dealing with goods (receiving them or selling them) which you know to have been stolen

stealing /'stiːlɪŋ/ *noun* the crime of taking property which belongs to someone else □ **going equipped for stealing** notifiable offence of carrying tools which could be used for burglary

steaming /'stiːmɪŋ/ *noun* an offence committed by a group of youths, usually unarmed, who rush down a street or through a public place such as a department store, stealing items and harassing people

stenographer /stə'nɒgrəfə/ *noun* an official person who can write in shorthand and so take records of what is said in court

step- /step/ *prefix* showing a family relationship through a parent who has married again

stepfather /'stepfɑːðə/ *noun* a man who has married a child's mother but is not the natural father of the child

stepmother /'stepmʌðə/ *noun* a woman who has married a child's father but is not the natural mother of the child

stepparent /'step,peərənt/ *noun* a stepfather or stepmother

stinger /'stɪŋə/ *noun* a device covered in spikes that can be thrown across a road to puncture a car's tyres if the police want to stop someone

stipendiary magistrate /staɪ ,pendiəri 'mædʒɪstreɪt/ *noun* a magistrate who is a qualified lawyer and who receives a salary (as opposed to an unpaid Justice of the Peace). Compare **lay magistrate** (NOTE: Now called **District Judge** *or* **Senior District Judge**.)

stipulate /'stɪpjʊleɪt/ *verb* to demand that a condition be put into a contract ○ *to stipulate that the contract should run for five years* ○ *to pay the stipulated charges* ○ *The company failed to pay on the stipulated date* or *on the date stipulated in the contract.* ○ *The contract stipulates that the seller pays the buyer's legal costs.*

stipulation /,stɪpjʊ'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a condition in a contract

stirpes ◗ **per stirpes**

stirpital /'stɜːpɪt(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to an entitlement which is divided among branches of a family rather than among individuals ○ *The judge placed a stirpital construction on the rule that children of a deceased person dying intestate must bring interest received from that person into hotchpot.*

stock /stɒk/ *noun* □ **in stock**, **out of stock** available or not available in the warehouse or store

stockbroking /'stɒkbrəʊkɪŋ/ *noun* the trade of dealing in shares for clients ○ *a stockbroking firm*

stock certificate /'stɒk sə,tɪfɪkət/ *noun* a document proving that someone owns shares in a company

Stock Exchange listing /'stɒk ɪks ,tʃeɪndʒ ,lɪstɪŋ/ *noun* an official list of shares which can be bought or sold on the Stock Exchange

Stock Exchange operation /,stɒk ɪks,tʃeɪndʒ ,ɒpə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* buying or selling of shares on the Stock Exchange

stock market manipulator /,stɒk ,mɑːkɪt mə'nɪpjʊleɪtə/ *noun* somebody who tries to influence the price of shares in his or her own favour

stock market valuation /,stɒk ,mɑːkɪt ,vælju'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the value of shares based on the current market price

stock movements /'stɒk ,muːvmənts/ *plural noun* passing of stock into or out of the warehouse

stock option /'stɒk ,ɒpʃən/ *noun* the right to buy shares at a cheap price given by a company to its employees

stock transfer form /,stɒk 'trænsfɜː fɔːm/ *noun* a form to be signed by the person transferring shares to another

stock valuation /,stɒl vælju 'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* estimation of the value of stock at the end of an accounting period

stolen goods /,stəʊlən 'gʊdz/ *plural noun* goods which have been stolen

stop and search /stɒp ən sɜːtʃ/, **stop and frisk** *US* /stɒp ən frɪsk/ *noun* the power held by a police officer to stop anyone and search them, even though there is no evidence that the person has committed any offence

storm damage /'stɔːm ,dæmɪdʒ/ *noun* damage caused by a storm

straight /streɪt/ *adjective* not dishonest □ **to play straight**, **to act straight with someone** to act honestly with someone □ **to go straight** to stop criminal activities

stranger crime /'streɪndʒə ,kraɪm/ *noun* a violent crime in which the attacker is someone whom the victim does not know

street crime /'striːt kraɪm/ *noun* criminal activity in a public place, espe-

cially an urban area, especially theft of personal possessions or cars, or the illegal possession or use of firearms

street vendor /'striːt ˌvendə/ *noun* somebody who sells food or small items in the street

strict liability /strɪkt ˌlaɪə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* total liability for an offence which has been committed whether you are at fault or not

strife /straɪf/ *noun* violent public arguments and disorder

strike /straɪk/ *noun* **1.** the activity of stopping work because of inability to reach agreement with management or because of orders from a union **2.** □ **to take strike action** to go on strike ■ *verb* **1.** to stop working because there is no agreement with management ○ *to strike for higher wages* or *for shorter working hours* ○ *to strike in protest against bad working conditions* **2.** to hit someone or something ○ *Two policemen were struck by bottles.* ○ *He was struck on the head by a cosh.* **3.** □ **to strike from the record** to remove words from the written minutes of a meeting because they are incorrect or offensive ○ *The chairman's remarks were struck from the record.*

strike off /ˌstraɪk 'ɒf/ *verb* to delete a name or item from a list or record □ **to strike someone off the rolls** to stop a solicitor from practising by removing his or her name from the list of solicitors

strike out /'straɪk aʊt/ *verb* **1.** to delete a word or words from a document □ **to strike out the last word** *US* way of getting permission of the chair to speak on a question, by moving that the last word of the amendment or section being discussed should be deleted **2.** to order something written to be deleted, so that it no longer forms part of the case ○ *to strike out a pleading* or *a statement of case* ○ *A party can apply for a statement of case to be struck out if it is not verified.* ○ *A court may strike out a statement of case if it appears that the statement shows no grounds for bringing the claim.*

strip search /'strɪp sɜːtʃ/ *noun* the searching of a person after he or she has removed their clothes (strip searches should be carried out by a doctor or nurse, or at least by a police officer of the same sex as the person being searched) (NOTE: Strip searches should be carried out by a doctor or nurse, or at least by a police officer of the same sex as the person being searched.)

strongbox /'strɒŋbɒks/ *noun* a heavy metal box which cannot be opened easily, in which valuable documents, money, etc., can be kept

strongroom /'strɒŋruːm/ *noun* a special room in a bank where valuable documents, money, gold, etc., can be kept

STV *abbreviation* single transferable vote

sub- /sʌb/ *prefix* less important

sub-agency /'sʌb ˌeɪdʒənsɪ/ *noun* a small agency which is part of a large agency

sub-agent /'sʌb ˌeɪdʒənt/ *noun* somebody who is in charge of a sub-agency

sub-clause /ˌsʌb 'klɔːz/ *noun* part of a clause in a Bill being considered by Parliament, which will become a subsection when the Bill becomes an Act

sub-committee /'sʌb kəˌmɪti/ *noun* a small committee which reports on a special subject to a main committee ○ *He is chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee.*

subcontract *noun* /'sʌbˌkɒntrækt/ a contract between the main contractor for a whole project and another firm who will do part of the work ○ *They have been awarded the subcontract for all the electrical work in the new building.* ○ *We will put the electrical work out to subcontract.* ■ *verb* /ˌsʌbkən'trækt/ to agree with a company that they will do part of the work for a project ○ *The electrical work has been subcontracted to Smith Ltd.*

subcontractor /'sʌbkənˌtræktə/ *noun* a company which has a contract to do work for a main contractor

subject /'sʌbdʒɪkt/ *noun* **1.** what something is concerned with ○ *The subject of the action was the liability of the defendant for the claimant's injuries.* **2.** somebody who is a citizen of a country and bound by its laws ○ *He is a British subject.* ○ *British subjects do not need visas to visit Common Market countries.* □

liberty of the subject the right of a citizen to be free unless convicted of a crime which is punishable by imprisonment

subject to /'sʌbdʒɪkt tə/ *adjective* **1.** depending on □ **the contract is subject to government approval** the contract will be valid only if it is approved by the government □ **agreement**, **sale subject to contract** agreement or sale which is not legal until a proper contract has been signed □ **offer subject to availability** the offer is valid only if the goods are available **2.** being able to receive □ **these articles are subject to import tax** import tax has to be paid on these articles

sub judice /ˌsʌb 'dʒuːdɪsi/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'under the law': being considered by a court and so not decided (NOTE: Cases which are 'sub judice' cannot be mentioned in the media or in Parliament if the mention is likely to prejudice the trial, and so would constitute contempt of court.)

sublease *noun* /'sʌbliːs/ a lease from a tenant to another tenant ■ *verb* /sʌb 'liːs/ to lease a leased property from another tenant ○ *They subleased a small office in the centre of town.*

sublessee /ˌsʌble'siː/ *noun* a person or company which holds a property on a sublease

sublessor /ˌsʌble'sɔː/ *noun* a tenant who lets a leased property to another tenant

sublet /sʌb'let/ *verb* to let a leased property to another tenant ○ *We have sublet part of our office to a financial consultancy.* (NOTE: **subletting – sublet – has sublet**)

submission /səb'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a statement made to a judge or other person considering a case ○ *The court heard the submission of defence counsel that there was no case to answer.* or *In the submission of defence counsel there was no case to answer.* **2.** a document outlining a proposal given to someone who has to make a decision about it ○ *The deadline for submissions is the end of June.* **3.** the process of presenting something for consideration **4.** the state of giving in or having to obey someone

submit /səb'mɪt/ *verb* **1.** to put something forward to be examined ○ *to submit a proposal to the committee* ○ *She submitted a claim to the insurers.* **2.** to plead an argument in court ○ *Counsel submitted that the defendant had no case to answer.* ○ *It was submitted that the right of self-defence can be available only against unlawful attack.* **3.** to agree to be ruled by something ○ *He refused to submit to the jurisdiction of the court.* (NOTE: **submitting – submitted**)

subornation of perjury /ˌsʌbɔːneɪʃ(ə)n əv 'pɜːdʒəri/ *noun* the offence of getting someone to commit perjury

subpoena /sə'piːnə/ *noun* a court order requiring someone to appear in court ■ *verb* to order someone to appear in court ○ *The finance director was subpoenaed by the prosecution.*

subpoena ad testificandum /sə ˌpiːnə æd ˌtestɪfɪ'kændəm/ *noun* a court order requiring someone to appear as a witness

subpoena duces tecum *noun* a court order requiring someone to appear as a witness and bring with them documents relevant to the case (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, these terms have been replaced by **witness summons**.)

subrogation /ˌsʌbrəʊ'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a legal principle whereby someone stands in the place of another person and acquires that person's rights and is responsible for that person's liabilities

subscribe /səb'skraɪb/ *verb* **1.** □ **to subscribe to a magazine** to pay for a series of issues of a magazine **2.** □ **to subscribe for shares** to apply to buy shares in a new company

sub-section /'sʌb ˌsekʃən/ *noun* a part of a section of a document such as an Act of Parliament ○ *You will find the information in sub-section 3 of Section 47.*

subsequent /'sʌbsɪkwənt/ *adjective* following because of something

subsidiarity /səbˌsɪdi'ærɪti/ *noun* (*in the EU*) a principle that the Community shall only decide on matters which are better decided at Community level than at the level of the individual Member States and that other matters shall be left

to each Member State to decide (NOTE: Subsidiarity only operates in those areas where the EU does not have exclusive jurisdiction.)

subsidiary /səb'sɪdiəri/ *adjective* related to, but less important than, something else ○ *He faces one serious charge and several subsidiary charges arising out of the main charge.*

subsidiary company /səb,sɪdiəri 'kʌmp(ə)ni/ *noun* a company which is owned by a parent company

subsidise /'sʌbsɪdaɪz/, **subsidize** *verb* to help by giving money ○ *The government has refused to subsidise the car industry.*

subsidised accommodation /,sʌbsɪdaɪzd ə,kɒmə'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* cheap accommodation which is partly paid for by someone else such as an employer or a local authority

substance /'sʌbstəns/ *noun* **1.** a drug, solvent, gas or other material on which someone can become dependent or which can cause harm ○ *regulations on the transport of dangerous substances such as corrosive chemicals* ○ *illegal substances* ◊ **controlled drug 2.** the real basis of a report or argument ○ *There is no substance to the stories about his resignation.*

substance abuse /'sʌbstəns ə ,bjuːs/ *noun* the practice of drinking too much alcohol or using illegal drugs or other substances

substantive /səb'stæntɪv/ *adjective* real or actual

substantive law /,sʌbstəntɪv 'lɔː/ *noun* all laws including common law and statute law which deal with legal principles (as opposed to procedural law which refers to the procedure for putting law into practice). Compare **procedural law**

substantive motion /səb,stæntɪv 'məʊʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a motion which is complete in itself

substantive offence /,sʌbstəntɪv ə 'fens/ *noun* an offence which has actually taken place

substitute /'sʌbstɪtjuːt/ *noun* somebody or something which takes the place of someone or something else ■ *verb* **1.** to take the place of something else **2.** to put something in the place of something else ○ *They made an application to substitute a party, but the claimant refused his consent.*

substituted service /,sʌbstɪtjuːtɪd 'sɜːvɪs/ *noun* serving a legal document on someone other than by the legally prescribed method, e.g. by posting it to the last known address, or by advertising in the press (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has been replaced by **service by an alternative method**.)

substitution /,sʌbstɪ'tjuːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an act of putting something or someone in the place of something else ○ *The substitution of a party may take place if the court agrees that the original party was named by mistake.*

substitutionary /,sʌbstɪ 'tjuːʃ(ə)n(ə)ri/ *adjective* acting as a substitute ○ *He made a will leaving everything to his wife, but with the substitutionary provision that if she died before him, his estate devolved on their children.*

subtenancy /sʌb'tenənsi/ *noun* an agreement to sublet a property

subtenant /sʌb'tenənt/ *noun* a person or company to which a property has been sublet

subversive /səb'vɜːsɪv/ *adjective* acting secretly against the government ○ *The police is investigating subversive groups in the student organisations.*

success fee /sək'ses fiː/ *noun* a fee which is only paid to a lawyer if the case he or she has taken has been successful for his or her client

succession /sək'seʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of acquiring property or title from someone who has died

successor /sək'sesə/ *noun* somebody who takes over from someone ○ *Mr Smith's successor as chairman will be Mr Jones.*

sue /sjuː/ *verb* to start legal proceedings against someone to get compensation for a wrong ○ *to sue someone for damages* ○ *He is suing the company for £50,000 compensation.*

sufferance /'sʌfərəns/ *noun* an agreement to something which is not

stated, but assumed because no objection has been raised ○ *He has been allowed to live in the house on sufferance.*

suffrage /'sʌfrɪdʒ/ *noun* the right to vote in elections

suggestion box /sə'dʒestʃən bɒks/ *noun* a place in a company where members of staff can put forward their ideas for making the company more efficient and profitable

suicide /'suːɪsaɪd/ *noun* **1.** the act of killing yourself ○ *The police are treating the death as suicide, not murder.* □ **to commit suicide** to kill yourself ○ *After shooting his wife, he committed suicide in the bedroom.* **2.** somebody who has committed suicide

COMMENT: Aiding suicide is a notifiable offence.

suicide pact /'suːɪsaɪd pækt/ *noun* an agreement between two or more people that they will all commit suicide at the same time

sui generis /ˌsuːaɪ 'dʒenərɪs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'of its own right': being in a class of its own

sui juris /ˌsuːaɪ 'dʒʊərɪs/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'in one's own right': legally able to make contracts and sue others or be sued. Compare **alieni juris**

suit /suːt/ *noun* a civil legal case

sum /sʌm/ *verb* □ **to sum up** (*of a judge*) to speak at the end of a trial and review all the evidence and arguments for the benefit of the jury

summarily /'sʌmərɪli/ *adverb* immediately ○ *Magistrates can try a case summarily or refer it to the Crown Court.*

summarise /'sʌməraɪz/ *verb* to write or give a short account of what has been said or what happened (NOTE: **summarised – summarising**)

summary /'sʌməri/ *noun* a short account of what has happened or of what has been written ○ *The chairman gave a summary of his discussions with the German delegation.* ○ *The police inspector have a summary of events leading to the raid on the house.* ■ *adjective* happening immediately

summary arrest /ˌsʌməri ə'rest/ *noun* an arrest without a warrant

summary conviction /ˌsʌməri kən 'vɪkʃən/ *noun* a conviction by a magistrate sitting without a jury

summary dismissal /ˌsʌməri dɪs 'mɪs(ə)l/ *noun* the dismissal of an employee without giving the notice stated in the contract of employment

summary judgment /ˌsʌməri 'dʒʌdʒmənt/ *noun* an immediate judgment of a case without a trial. This can be decided by the court itself or can be applied for by a party believing the opposing party has no real chance of succeeding with the case.

summary jurisdiction /ˌsʌməri ˌdʒʊərɪs'dɪkʃən/ *noun* the power of a magistrates' court to try a case without a jury or to try a case immediately without referring it to the Crown Court

summary offence /ˌsʌməri ə'fens/ *noun* a minor crime which can be tried only in a magistrates' court

summary trial /ˌsʌməri 'traɪəl/ *noun* the trial of a petty offence by magistrates

summing up /ˌsʌmɪŋ 'ʌp/ *noun* a speech by a judge at the end of a trial, reviewing all the evidence and arguments and noting important points of law for the benefit of the jury (NOTE: The US term is **instructions**.)

summit conference /ˌsʌmɪt 'kɒnf(ə)rəns/ *noun* the meeting of two or more heads of government ○ *The summit conference* or *summit meeting was held in Geneva.* ○ *The matter will be discussed at next week's summit of the EC leaders.*

summon /'sʌmən/ *verb* to call someone to come ○ *He was summoned to appear before the committee.*

summons /'sʌmənz/ *noun* an official command from a court requiring someone to appear in court to be tried for a criminal offence or to defend a civil action ○ *He tore up the summons and went on holiday to Spain.*

Sunday closing /ˌsʌndeɪ 'kləʊzɪŋ/ *noun* the act of not opening a shop on Sundays

sunshine law /'sʌnʃaɪn ˌlɔː/ *noun* a law that prohibits closed meetings of public bodies

super /'suːpə/ *noun* same as **police superintendent**

supergrass /'suːpəgrɑːs/ *noun* a person, usually a criminal, who gives information to the police about a large number of criminals (*slang*)

supervision order /ˌsuːpə'vɪʒ(ə)n ˌɔːdə/ *noun* a court order for a young offender to be placed under the supervision of the probation service

supplemental /ˌsʌplɪ'mentəl/ *adjective* being additional to something

supplementary /ˌsʌplɪ'ment(ə)ri/ *adjective* additional

supply and demand /səˌplaɪ ən dɪ 'mɑːnd/ *noun* the amount of a product which is available at a specific price and the amount which is wanted by customers at that price

Supply Bill /sə'plaɪ bɪl/ *noun* a Bill for providing money for government requirements

supply price /sə'plaɪ praɪs/ *noun* the price at which something is provided

suppress /sə'pres/ *verb* **1.** to hide documents **2.** to prevent evidence being given

suppressio veri /səˌpresiəʊ 'veraɪ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'suppressing the truth': act of not mentioning some important fact

supra /'suːprə/ *adverb* above

supremacy /sʊ'preməsi/ *noun* **1.** a situation where one person or group is much more powerful than any other □ **the supremacy of Parliament** the situation where the UK Parliament can both pass and repeal laws **2.** the feeling that the ethnic group you belong to is superior to other groups **3.** one of the twin pillars of EU law, by which it cannot be overridden by national laws even if the national laws existed before the EU law. It is based on all forms of EU law, i.e. treaty articles, community acts and agreements with third parties. ◊ **direct effect**

Supreme Court /sʊˌpriːm 'kɔːt/ *noun* **1.** □ **Supreme Court (of Judicature)** the highest court in England and Wales, consisting of the Court of Appeal and the High Court of Justice **2.** in the United Kingdom, a court that is planned as a replacement for the Law Lords committee as the highest court in the land **3.** the highest federal court in the USA and other countries

surcharge /'sɜːtʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* **1.** an extra charge **2.** a penalty for incurring expenditure without authorisation

surety /'ʃʊərəti/ *noun* **1.** somebody who guarantees that someone will do something, especially by paying to guarantee that someone will keep the peace ○ *to stand surety for someone* **2.** something such as money, deeds or share certificates deposited as security for a loan

surrender /sə'rendə/ *noun* **1.** the giving up of a right or power **2.** the giving up of an insurance policy before the contracted date for maturity ○ *The contract becomes null and void when these documents are surrendered.* ■ *verb* to give in a document, to give up a right ○ *The court ordered him to surrender his passport.* ○ *She surrendered her rights to the piece of land.*

surrender value /sə'rendə ˌvæljuː/ *noun* money which an insurer will pay if an insurance policy is given up before it matures

surrogate /'sʌrəgət/ *noun* a person appointed to act in place of someone else

surrogate mother /ˌsʌrəgət 'mʌðə/ *noun* a woman who has a child by artificial insemination for a couple when the wife cannot bear children, with the intention of handing the child over to them when it is born

surveillance /sə'veɪləns/ *noun* the activity of keeping careful watch on someone to find out what they are doing ○ *The diplomats were placed under police surveillance.* ○ *Surveillance at international airports has been increased.*

surveillance device /səˌveɪləns dɪ 'vaɪs/ *noun* same as **bug**

survive /sə'vaɪv/ *verb* to live longer than another person ○ *he survived his wife* ○ *She is survived by her husband and three children.* □ **he left his estate to his surviving relatives** to the relatives who were still alive

surviving spouse /səˌvaɪvɪŋ 'spaʊs/ *noun* the living husband or wife of a person who has died, who is usually

the beneficiary of the estate, even if the dead person died intestate. If there are living children, then the spouse takes the personal chattels, a statutory sum as legacy, and interest in half the remaining estate.

survivor /sə'vaɪvə/ *noun* someone who lives longer than another person

survivorship /sə'vaɪvəʃɪp/ *noun* the state of being the survivor of two or more people who hold a joint tenancy on a property

SUS law /'sʌs lɔː/ *noun* formerly, a law which allowed the police to stop and arrest a person whom they suspected of having committed an offence

suspect *noun* /'sʌspekt/ somebody whom the police think has committed a crime ○ *The police have taken six suspects into custody.* ○ *The police are questioning the suspect about his movements at the time the crime was committed.* ■ *verb* /sə'spekt/ to believe that someone has done something ○ *He was arrested as a suspected spy.* ○ *The police suspect that the thefts were committed by a member of the shop's staff.* (NOTE: You suspect someone **of** committing a crime.)

suspend /sə'spend/ *verb* **1.** to stop something happening for a period of time ○ *We have suspended payments while we are waiting for news from our agent.* ○ *The hearings have been suspended for two weeks.* ○ *Work on the preparation of the case has been suspended.* ○ *The employers decided to suspend negotiations.* **2.** to stop someone working for a period of time ○ *She was suspended on full pay while the police investigations were proceeding.* **3.** to punish a student by refusing to allow him to attend school or college ○ *Three boys were suspended from school for fighting.*

suspended sentence /sə,spendɪd 'sentəns/ *noun* a sentence of imprisonment which a court orders shall not take effect unless the offender commits another crime

suspension /sə'spenʃən/ *noun* the act of stopping something for a time ○ *suspension of payments* ○ *suspension of deliveries*

COMMENT: When an MP is 'named' by the Speaker, the House will vote to suspend him. Suspension is normally for five days, though it may be for longer if the MP is suspended twice in the same session of Parliament.

suspicion /sə'spɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* □ **on suspicion** feeling that someone has committed a crime ○ *He was arrested on suspicion of being an accessory to the crime.*

suspicious /sə'spɪʃəs/ *adjective* which makes someone suspect ○ *The police are dealing with the suspicious package found in the car.* ○ *Suspicious substances were found in the man's pocket.*

swear /sweə/ *verb* to promise that what you will say will be the truth ○ *He swore to tell the truth.* □ **'I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth'** words used when a witness takes the oath in court

swear in /ˌsweə 'ɪn/ *verb* to make someone take an oath before taking up a position ○ *He was sworn in as a Privy Councillor.*

swearing-in /ˌsweərɪŋ 'ɪn/ *noun* the act of making someone take an oath before taking up a position

swindle /'swɪnd(ə)l/ *noun* an illegal deal in which someone is cheated out of his or her money ■ *verb* to cheat someone out of his or her money ○ *He made £50,000 by swindling small shopkeepers.* ○ *The gang swindled the bank out of £1.5m.*

swindler /'swɪndlə/ *noun* somebody who swindles

syllabus /'sɪləbəs/ *noun US* a headnote giving a short summary of a case

T

table /'teɪb(ə)l/ *noun* □ **to let a bill lie on the table** *US* not to proceed with discussion of a bill, but to hold it over to be debated later ◇ **to lay a bill on the table** *US* **1.** to present a bill to the House of Commons for discussion **2.** to kill debate on a bill in the House of Representatives ◇ **to table a motion** *US* **1.** to put forward a proposal for discussion by putting details of it on the table at a meeting **2.** to remove a motion from consideration for an indefinite period

Table A /ˌteɪb(ə)l 'eɪ/ *noun* model articles of association of a limited company set out in the Companies Act, 1985

Table B /ˌteɪb(ə)l 'biː/ *noun* a model memorandum of association of a limited company set out in the Companies Act, 1985

Table C /ˌteɪb(ə)l 'siː/ *noun* a model memorandum and articles of association set out in the Companies Act, 1985 for a company limited by guarantee having no share capital

Table D /ˌteɪb(ə)l 'diː/ *noun* a model memorandum and articles of association of a public company with share capital limited by guarantee, set out in the Companies Act, 1985

Table E /ˌteɪb(ə)l 'iː/ *noun* a model memorandum and articles of association of an unlimited company with share capital set out in the Companies Act, 1985

tabs /tæbz/ *plural noun* bands of white cloth worn by a barrister round his or her neck, instead of a tie

tacit /'tæsɪt/ *adjective* agreed but not stated ○ *He gave the proposal his tacit approval.* ○ *The committee gave its tacit agreement to the proposal.*

tail /teɪl/ ◗ **fee tail**

take in /ˌteɪk 'ɪn/ *verb* to trick someone into believing something that is not true ○ *We were taken in by his promise of quick profits.*

take out /ˌteɪk 'aʊt/ *verb* □ **to take out a patent for an invention** to apply for and receive a patent □ **to take out insurance against theft** to pay a premium to an insurance company, so that if a theft takes place the company will pay compensation

take over /ˌteɪk 'əʊvə/ *verb* **1.** to start to do something in place of someone else ○ *Miss Black took over from Mr Jones on May 1st.* ○ *The new chairman takes over on July 1st.* □ **the take-over period is always difficult** the period when one person is taking over work from another **2.** □ **to take over a company** to buy a business by offering to buy most of its shares ○ *The company was taken over by a large international corporation.*

takeover /'teɪkəʊvə/ *noun* the activity of one business buying another □ **to make a takeover bid for a company** to offer to buy a majority of the shares in a company □ **to withdraw a takeover bid** to say that you no longer offer to buy most of the shares in a company □ **the company rejected the takeover bid** the directors recommended that the shareholders should not accept the bid

Takeover Panel /'teɪkəʊvə ˌpæn(ə)l/ *noun* a non-statutory body which examines takeovers and applies the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers

talaq /'tælæk/ *noun* an Islamic form of divorce where the husband may divorce his wife unilaterally by an oral declaration made three times

tamper /'tæmpə/ *verb* □ **to tamper with something** to change something or

to act in such a way that something does not work ○ *The police were accused of tampering with the evidence.* ○ *The charges state that she had tampered with the wheels of the victim's car.*

tangible assets /ˌtændʒɪb(ə)l 'æsets/ *plural noun* assets which are visible, e.g. machinery, buildings, furniture or jewellery

tariff /'tærɪf/ *noun* the minimum period of time which a life prisoner must serve in prison

tax /tæks/ *noun* **1.** money taken compulsorily by the government or by an official body to pay for government services **2.** □ **to levy a tax**, **to impose a tax** to make a tax payable ○ *The government has imposed a 15% tax on petrol.* □ **to lift a tax** to remove a tax □ **tax deducted at source** tax which is removed from a salary, interest payment or dividend payment before the money is paid out □ **tax loophole** legal means of not paying tax □ **tax planning** planning one's financial affairs so that one pays as little tax as possible ■ *verb* **1.** to impose a tax on something, or make someone pay a tax ○ *to tax businesses at 50%* ○ *Income is taxed at 29%.* ○ *These items are heavily taxed.* **2.** to have the costs of a legal action assessed by the court ○ *The court ordered the costs to be taxed if not agreed.* **3.** to assess the bill presented by a Parliamentary agent

tax abatement /'tæks əˌbeɪtmənt/ *noun* the reduction of tax

taxable /'tæksəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being able to be taxed □ **taxable items** items on which a tax has to be paid

taxable income /ˌtæksəb(ə)l 'ɪnkʌm/ *noun* income on which a person has to pay tax

tax advantage /'tæks ədˌvɑːntɪdʒ/ *noun* a special tax reduction accorded to some classes of taxpayers such as those with low pay, which must be extended to workers who are not nationals of the country

tax allowances /'tæks əˌlaʊənsɪz/ *plural noun* part of one's income which a person is allowed to earn and not pay tax on

taxation of costs /tækˌseɪʃ(ə)n əv 'kɒsts/ *noun* formerly, the assessment of the costs of a legal action by the Taxing Master (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has been replaced by **assessment of costs**.)

tax avoidance /'tæks əˌvɔɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* a legal attempt to minimise the amount of tax to be paid

tax code /'tæks kəʊd/ *noun* a number given to indicate the amount of tax allowances a person has

tax concession /'tæks kənˌseʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a reduction in the amount of tax that has to be paid

tax consultant /'tæks kənˌsʌltənt/ *noun* somebody who gives advice on tax problems

tax court /'tæks kɔːt/ *noun US* a tribunal which hears appeals from taxpayers against the Internal Revenue Service

tax credit /'tæks ˌkredɪt/ *noun* a part of a dividend on which a company has already paid tax, so that the shareholder is not taxed on it again

tax-deductible /ˌtæks dɪ'dʌktɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* being possible to deduct from an income before tax is calculated □ **these expenses are not tax-deductible** tax has to be paid on these expenses

tax deductions /'tæks dɪˌdʌkʃənz/ *plural noun US* **1.** money removed from a salary to pay tax **2.** business expenses which can be claimed against tax

taxed costs /ˌtæksd 'kɒsts/ *plural noun* varying amount of costs which can be awarded in legal proceedings

tax evasion /'tæks ɪˌveɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* illegally trying not to pay tax

tax-exempt /ˌtæks ɪg'zempt/ *adjective* **1.** (*of a person or organisation*) not required to pay tax **2.** (*of income or goods*) not subject to tax

tax exemption /'tæks ɪgˌzempʃən/ *noun US* **1.** the state of being free from payment of tax **2.** a part of income which a person is allowed to earn and not pay tax on

tax-free /ˌtæks 'friː/ *adjective* on which tax does not have to be paid

tax haven /'tæks ˌheɪv(ə)n/ *noun* a country where taxes levied on foreigners or foreign companies are low

tax holiday /'tæks ˌhɒlɪdeɪ/ *noun* the period when a new business is exempted from paying tax

Taxing Master /ˌtæksɪŋ 'mɑːstə/ *noun* an official of the Supreme Court who assesses the costs of a court action (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has been replaced in some contexts by **costs judge**.)

taxing officer /ˌtæksɪŋ 'ɒfɪsə/ *noun* a person appointed by the House of Commons to assess the charges presented by a Parliamentary agent

tax inspector /'tæks ɪnˌspektə/ *noun* an official of the Inland Revenue who examines tax returns and decides how much tax someone should pay

taxpayer /'tækspeɪə/ *noun* a person or company which has to pay tax ○ *basic taxpayer* or *taxpayer at the basic rate*

tax point /'tæks pɔɪnt/ *noun* **1.** the date when goods are supplied and VAT is charged **2.** the date at which a tax begins to be applied

tax relief /'tæks rɪˌliːf/ *noun* a reduction in the amount of tax that has to be paid

tax return /'tæks rɪˌtɜːn/ *noun* a completed tax form, with details of income and allowances

tax schedules /'tæks ˌʃedjuːlz/ *plural noun* six types of income as classified in the Finance Acts for British tax

TD *abbreviation* Teachta Dala

Teachta Dala /ˌtɪəxtə 'dælə/ *noun* a member of the lower house of the parliament of the Republic of Ireland, the Dáil. Abbreviation **TD**

technical /'teknɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to a specific legal point, using a strictly legal interpretation ○ *Nominal damages were awarded as the harm was judged to be technical rather than actual.*

technicality /ˌteknɪ'kælɪti/ *noun* a special interpretation of a legal point ○ *The Appeal Court rejected the appeal on a technicality.*

teleological /ˌtiːliə'lɒdʒɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to the final purpose of something ○ *The ECJ uses a teleological approach to legislation.*

telephone book /'telɪfəʊn bʊk/ *noun* a book which lists names of people or companies with their addresses and telephone numbers

telephone hearing /ˌtelɪfəʊn 'hɪərɪŋ/ *noun* a hearing conducted by telephone and recorded on tape, using a telephone conferencing system

tem /tem/ ◗ **pro tem**

Temple ◗ **Middle Temple**

temporary employment /ˌtemp(ə)rəri ɪm'plɔɪmənt/ *noun* full-time work which does not last for more than a few days or months

tenancy /'tenənsi/ *noun* **1.** an agreement by which a person can occupy a property **2.** the period during which a person has an agreement to occupy a property **3.** the period during which a barrister occupies chambers

tenancy at sufferance /ˌtenənsi ət 'sʌf(ə)rəns/ *noun* a situation where a previously lawful tenant is still in possession of property after the termination of the lease

tenancy at will /ˌtenənsi ət 'wɪl/ *noun* a situation where the owner of a property allows a tenant to occupy it as long as either party wishes

tenancy in common /ˌtenənsi ɪn 'kɒmən/ *noun* a situation where two or more persons jointly lease a property and each can leave his or her interest to an heir on their death

tenant /'tenənt/ *noun* a person or company which rents a house, flat or office in which to live or work ○ *The tenant is liable for repairs.*

tenant at will /ˌtenənt ət 'wɪl/ *noun* a tenant who holds a property at the will of the owner

tenant for life /ˌtenənt fə 'laɪf/ *noun* somebody who can occupy a property for life

tender /'tendə/ *noun* □ **tender before claim** defence that the defendant offered the claimant the amount of money claimed before the claimant started proceedings against him. Also called **de-**

fence before claim ■ *verb* **1.** □ **to tender for a contract** to put forward an estimate of cost for work to be carried out under contract ○ *to tender for the construction of a hospital* **2.** □ **to tender one's resignation** to give in one's resignation

tenderer /'tendərə/ *noun* a person or company which tenders for work ○ *The company was the successful tenderer for the project.*

tenement /'tenəmənt/ *noun* **1.** property which is held by a tenant **2.** in Scotland, a building which is divided into rented flats

tenens /'tenənz/ ◗ **locum**

tenure /'tenjə/ *noun* **1.** the right to hold property or a position **2.** the time when a position is held ○ *during his tenure of the office of chairman*

term /tɜːm/ *noun* **1.** a period of time ○ *the term of a lease* ○ *to have a loan for a term of fifteen years* ○ *during his term of office as chairman* ○ *The term of the loan is fifteen years.* □ **term of years** a fixed period of several years (of a lease) **2.** □ **term, terms** conditions or duties which have to be carried out as part of a contract, arrangements which have to be agreed before a contract is valid ○ *He refused to agree to some of the terms of the contract.* ○ *By* or *under the terms of the contract, the company is responsible for all damage to the property.* **3.** a part of a legal year when courts are in session. The four law terms are Easter, Hilary, Michaelmas and Trinity. ○ *The autumn* or *winter term starts in September.* **4.** a word or phrase which has a particular meaning ○ *Counsel used several technical terms which the prisoner didn't understand.*

term deposit /'tɜːm dɪˌpɒzɪt/ *noun* money invested for a fixed period which gives a higher rate of interest than normal

terminable /'tɜːmɪnəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being possible to terminate

terminate /'tɜːmɪˌneɪt/ *verb* to end something, bring something to an end, or come to an end ○ *to terminate an agreement* ○ *His employment was terminated.* ○ *An offer terminates on the death of the offeror.*

termination /ˌtɜːmɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** bringing to an end ○ *the termination of an offer* or *of a lease* ○ *to appeal against the termination of a foster order* **2.** *US* the act of leaving a job by resigning, retiring, or being fired or made redundant

termination clause /ˌtɜːmɪ 'neɪʃ(ə)n klɔːz/ *noun* a clause which explains how and when a contract can be terminated

term insurance /'tɜːm ɪnˌʃʊərəns/ *noun* life assurance which covers a person's life for a fixed period of time

term loan /'tɜːm ləʊn/ *noun* a loan for a fixed period of time

term shares /'tɜːm ʃeəz/ *plural noun* type of building society deposit for a fixed period of time at a higher rate of interest

terms of employment /ˌtɜːmz əv ɪm'plɔɪmənt/ *plural noun* conditions set out in a contract of employment

terms of payment /ˌtɜːmz əv 'peɪmənt/ *plural noun* conditions for paying something

terms of reference /ˌtɜːmz əv 'ref(ə)rəns/ *plural noun* areas which a committee or an inspector can deal with ○ *Under the terms of reference of the committee, it cannot investigate complaints from the public.* ○ *The tribunal's terms of reference do not cover traffic offences.*

terms of sale /ˌtɜːmz əv 'seɪl/ *plural noun* same as **conditions of sale**

territorial /ˌterɪ'tɔːriəl/ *adjective* referring to land □ **territorial claims** claims to own land which is part of another country □ **territorial waters** sea waters near the coast of a country, which is part of the country and governed by the laws of that country □ **outside territorial waters** in international waters, where a single country's jurisdiction does not run

territoriality /ˌterɪtɔːri'ælɪti/ *noun* the principle that a country has jurisdiction only over its own territory. ◊ **extra-territory**

territory /'terɪt(ə)ri/ *noun* an area of land over which a government has control ○ *Their government has laid claim to part of our territory.*

terrorism /'terərɪz(ə)m/ *noun* the use of violent actions such as assassination

or bombing for political reasons ○ *The act of terrorism was condemned by the Minister of Justice.*

terrorist /'terərɪst/ *noun* somebody who commits a violent act for political reasons ○ *The bomb was planted by a terrorist group* or *by a group of terrorists.* ○ *Six people were killed in the terrorist attack on the airport.*

testacy /'testəsi/ *noun* the condition of having made a legally valid will

testamentary /testə'mentəri/ *adjective* referring to a will

testamentary capacity /testə ˌmentəri kə'pæsɪti/ *noun* the legal ability of someone to make a will

COMMENT: A testator must be able to make a will: he must be of sound mind (i.e. must know what he is doing, what property he has, and who he is leaving it to), he must approve of the will (for example, in cases where a will is prepared for a testator by someone else), he must be acting freely (not coerced by anyone else, not tricked into making a fraudulent will).

testamentary disposition /testə ˌmentəri ˌdɪspə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the passing of property to someone in a will

testamentary freedom /testə ˌmentəri 'friːdəm/ *noun* freedom to dispose of your property in a will as you want

testate /'testeɪt/ *adjective* having made a will ○ *Did he die testate?* ◊ **intestate**

testator /te'steɪtə/ *noun* a man who has made a will

testatrix /te'steɪtrɪks/ *noun* a woman who has made a will

test case /'test keɪs/ *noun* a legal action where the decision will fix a principle which other cases can follow

test certificate /'test sə,tɪfɪkət/ *noun* a certificate to show that something has passed a test

testify /'testɪfaɪ/ *verb* to give evidence in court

testimonium clause /ˌtestɪ 'məʊniəm ˌklɔːz/ *noun* the last section of a document such as will or conveyance which shows how it has been witnessed

COMMENT: The testimonium clause usually begins with the words: 'in witness whereof I have set my hand'.

testimony /'testɪməni/ *noun* an oral statement given by a witness in court about what happened ○ *She gave her testimony in a low voice.*

test of effectiveness /ˌest əv ɪ 'fektɪvnəs/ *noun* in the European Union, a test to show if an action is more effective when taken by a Member State than when taken centrally. It is one of the tests used to decide on subsidiarity.

test of scale /ˌtest əv 'skeɪl/ *noun* in the European Union, a test to show if an action is more effective when taken centrally than when taken by a Member State. It is one of the tests used to decide on subsidiarity.

TEU *abbreviation* Treaty on European Union

textbook /'tekstbʊk/ *noun* a book of legal commentary which can be cited in court

theft /θeft/ *noun* **1.** the crime of taking of property which belongs to someone else with the intention of depriving that person of it ○ *to take out insurance against theft* ○ *We have brought in security guards to protect the store against theft.* ○ *The company is trying to reduce losses caused by theft.* **2.** the act of stealing ○ *There has been a wave of thefts from newsagents.*

COMMENT: Types of theft which are notifiable offences are: theft from the person of another; theft in a dwelling; theft by an employee; theft of mail, pedal cycle or motor vehicle; theft from vehicles, from a shop or from an automatic machine or meter.

there- /ðeə/ *prefix* that thing

thereafter /ðeər'ɑːftə/ *adverb* after that

thereby /ðeə'baɪ/ *adverb* by that

therefor /ðeə'fɔː/ *adverb* for that

therefrom /ðeə'frʌm/ *adverb* from that

therein /ðeər'ɪn/ *adverb* in that

thereinafter /ˌðeərɪn'ɑːftə/ *adverb* afterwards listed in that document

thereinbefore /ˌðeərɪnbɪ'fɔː/ *adverb* mentioned before in that document

thereinunder /ˌðeərɪnˈʌndə/ *adverb* mentioned under that heading

thereof /ðeərˈɒv/ *adverb* of that □ **in respect thereof** regarding that thing

thereto /ðeəˈtuː/ *adverb* to that

theretofore /ˌðeətʊˈfɔː/ *adverb* before that time

therewith /ðeəˈwɪð/ *adverb* with that

thief /θiːf/ *noun* somebody who steals or who takes property which belongs to someone else ○ *Thieves broke into the office and stole the petty cash.*

third party /ˌθɜːd ˈpɑːti/ *noun* **1.** any person other than the two main parties involved in proceedings or contract □ **the case is in the hands of a third party** the case is being dealt with by someone who is not one of the main interested parties. ◊ **party 2.** the other person involved in an accident

third party insurance /ˌθɜːd pɑːti ɪnˈʃʊərəns/ *noun* insurance which pays compensation if someone who is not the insured person incurs loss or injury

third party notice /θɜːd ˌpɑːtɪ ˈnəʊtɪs/ *noun* a pleading served by a defendant on another party joining that party to an existing court action

third party proceedings /θɜːd ˌpɑːti prəˈsiːdɪŋz/ *plural noun* the introduction of a third party into a case by the defendant, or by the claimant in the case of a counterclaim (NOTE: The US term is **impleader**.)

third quarter /ˌθɜːd ˈkwɔːtə/ *noun* a period of three months from July to the end of September

Third Reading /ˌθɜːd ˈriːdɪŋ/ *noun* a final discussion and vote on a Bill in Parliament

threat /θret/ *noun* **1.** spoken or written words which say that something unpleasant may happen to someone, and which frighten that person **2.** an action or situation that could be harmful or dangerous ○ *The introduction of ID cards might be regarded as a threat to civil liberties.*

threaten /ˈθret(ə)n/ *verb* to warn someone that unpleasant things may happen to him or her ○ *He threatened to take the tenant to court* or *to have the tenant evicted.* ○ *She complained that her husband had threatened her with a knife.* □ **threatening behaviour** acting in a way which threatens someone

threshold criteria /ˈθreʃhəʊld kraɪ ˌtɪəriə/ *plural noun* the conditions that need to be met before the social services of a local authority can begin care proceedings, mainly, whether the child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm if left in the care of its natural parents, indicating that the child is beyond parental control (NOTE: Since the introduction of the Human Rights Act 1998, the court must be satisfied that such an order does not contravene Article 8, which guarantees a right to family life. Consequently, the court must be satisfied that any intervention is proportionate to the legitimate aim of protecting family life.)

ticket office /ˈtɪkɪt ˌɒfɪs/ *noun* an office where tickets can be bought

tied cottage /ˌtaɪd ˈkɒtɪdʒ/ *noun* a house owned by an employer and let to an employee for the period of his or her employment

time and motion study /ˌtaɪm ən ˈməʊʃ(ə)n ˌstʌdi/ *noun* a study in an office or factory of the time taken to do specific jobs and the movements employees have to make to do them

time-bar /ˈtaɪm bɑː/ *verb* to stop someone doing something such as exercising a right because a set time limit has expired (NOTE: **time-barring – time-barred**)

time charter /ˈtaɪm ˌtʃɑːtə/ *noun* an agreement to charter a ship for a fixed period

time limit /ˈtaɪm ˌlɪmɪt/ *noun* the maximum time which can be taken to do something

time limitation /ˈtaɪm lɪmɪˌteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the amount of time which is available

time lock /ˈtaɪm lɒk/ *noun* a lock such as one in a bank vault which will open only at a specific time of day

time policy /ˈtaɪm ˌpɒlɪsi/ *noun* a marine insurance policy which runs for a fixed period of time

time summons /ˈtaɪm ˌsʌmənz/ *noun* a summons issued to apply to the

court for more time in which to serve a pleading

timetable /'taɪmteɪb(ə)l/ *noun* a printed list which shows the times of things that are going to happen

tip off /ˌtɪp 'ɒf/ *verb* □ **to tip someone off** to warn someone (*informal*) ○ *We think he tipped the burglars off that the police were outside.* ○ *She tipped them off that a police investigation was about to take place.*

tip-off /'tɪp ɒf/ *noun* a piece of useful information, given secretly (*informal*) ○ *Acting on a tip-off from a member of the public, customs officials stopped the truck.* ○ *The police received a tip-off about a bomb in the building.* ○ *The police raided the club after a tip-off from a member of the public.*

tipstaff /'tɪpstɑːf/ *noun* an official of the Supreme Court who is responsible for arresting persons in contempt of court

title /'taɪt(ə)l/ *noun* **1.** the right to hold goods or property ○ *She has no title to the property.* **2.** a document proving a right to hold a property ○ *He has a good title to the property.* □ **to have a clear title to something** to have a right to something with no limitations or charges **3.** the name of a bill which comes before Parliament or of an Act of Parliament

title deeds /'taɪt(ə)l ˌdiːdz/ *plural noun* document showing who owns a property ○ *We have deposited the deeds of the house in the bank.*

token charge /ˌtəʊkən 'tʃɑːdʒ/ *noun* a small charge which does not cover the real costs ○ *A token charge is made for heating.*

token payment /'təʊkən ˌpeɪmənt/ *noun* a small payment to show that a payment is being made

token rent /ˌtəʊkən 'rent/ *noun* a very low rent payment to show that a rent is being asked

toll /təʊl/ *verb US* to suspend a law for a period

top security prison /tɒp sɪˌkjʊərɪti 'prɪz(ə)n/ *noun* a prison with very strict security where category 'A' prisoners are kept

tort /tɔːt/ *noun* a civil wrong done by one person to another and entitling the victim to claim damages □ **action in tort** a case brought by a claimant who alleges he or she has suffered damage or harm caused by the defendant

tortfeasor /tɔːt'fiːzə/ *noun* somebody who has committed a tort

tortious /'tɔːʃəs/ *adjective* referring to a tort □ **tortious act** a wrong, an act which damages someone □ **tortious liability** liability for harm caused by a breach of duty

torture /'tɔːtʃə/ *verb* to hurt someone badly so as to force him or her to give information

torturer /'tɔːtʃərə/ *noun* somebody who tortures

total intestacy /ˌtəʊt(ə)l ɪn'testəsi/ *noun* a state where a person has not made a will, or where a previous will has been revoked

total loss /ˌtəʊt(ə)l 'lɒs/ *noun* □ **the cargo was written off as a total loss** the cargo was so badly damaged that the insurers said it had no value

toties quoties /ˌtəʊʃɪiːz 'kwəʊʃɪiːz/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'as often as necessary'

totting up /ˌtɒtɪŋ 'ʌp/ *noun* the procedure of adding previous convictions for traffic offences to a present conviction. Each conviction leads to an endorsement of the driver's licence and he or she may be sufficient for disqualification from driving if all the endorsements are added together.

tourist visa /'tʊərɪst ˌviːzə/ *noun* a visa which allows a person to visit a country for a short time on holiday

town planner /ˌtaʊn 'plænə/ *noun* a person who supervises the design of a town, the way the streets and buildings in a town are laid out and how the land in a town used

town planning /ˌtaʊn 'plænɪŋ/ *noun* the activity of supervising the design of a town and the use of land in a town

trace /treɪs/ *verb* to look for someone or something ○ *We have traced the missing documents.* ○ *The police traced the two men to a hotel in London.*

tracing action /ˌtreɪsɪŋ 'ækʃən/ *noun* a court action begun to trace money or the proceeds of a sale

track /træk/ *noun* one of three management systems by which a court case is processed: the small claims track, the fast track or the multi-track

track record /'træk ˌrekɔːd/ *noun* the success or failure of someone in the past ○ *He has a good track record as a detective.* ○ *The company has no track record in the computer market.*

trade /treɪd/ *noun* **1.** the business of buying and selling **2.** □ **to ask a company to supply trade references** to ask a company to give names of traders who can report on the company's financial situation and reputation **3.** all the people or companies dealing in the same type of product ○ *He is in the secondhand car trade.* ○ *She is very well known in the clothing trade.*

trade agreement /'treɪd əˌgriːmənt/ *noun* an international agreement between countries over general terms of trade

trade association /'treɪd əsəʊsiˌeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a group which joins together companies in the same type of business

trade description /ˌtreɪd dɪ 'skrɪpʃən/ *noun* a description of a product to attract customers

Trade Descriptions Act /ˌtreɪd dɪ 'skrɪpʃənz ækt/ *noun* an Act of Parliament which limits the way in which products can be described so as to protect consumers from wrong descriptions made by the makers

trade dispute /'treɪd dɪˌspjuːt/ *noun* **1.** an international dispute over trade matters **2.** a dispute between management and workers over conditions of employment or union membership

trade fixtures /ˌtreɪd 'fɪkstʃəz/ *plural noun* equipment attached to a property by a tenant so that they can exercise their trade, which may be removed at the end of the tenancy

trade paper /ˌtreɪd 'peɪpə/ *noun* a newspaper aimed at people working in a particular industry

Trades Union Congress /ˌtreɪdz 'juːnjən ˌkɒŋgres/ *noun* a central organisation for all British trade unions. Abbreviation **TUC** (NOTE: Although **Trades Union Congress** is the official name for the organisation, **trade union** is commoner than **trades union**.)

trade terms /'treɪd tɜːmz/ *plural noun* special discount for people in the same trade

trade union /ˌtreɪd 'juːnjən/**, trades union** /ˌtreɪdz 'juːnjən/ *noun* an organisation which represents employees in discussions about wages and conditions of employment with employers ○ *They are members of a trade union* or *they are trade union members.* ○ *He has applied for trade union membership* or *he has applied to join a trade union.*

trading loss /ˌtreɪdɪŋ 'lɒs/ *noun* a situation where the company's receipts are less than its expenditure

trading profit /'treɪdɪŋ ˌprɒfɪt/ *noun* a result where the company' receipts are higher than its expenditure

Trading Standards Department /ˌtreɪdɪŋ 'stændədz dɪˌpɑːtmənt/ *noun* a department of a council which deals with weighing and measuring equipment used by shops and other consumer matters. Also called **Weights and Measures Department**

trading standards officer /ˌtreɪdɪŋ 'stændədz ˌɒfɪsə/ *noun* an official in charge of a council's Trading Standards Department

traffic /'træfɪk/ *verb* to buy and sell something illegally ○ *He was charged with trafficking in drugs.*

trafficking /'træfɪkɪŋ/ *noun* the activity of dealing in illegal goods ○ *drug trafficking* □ **trafficking in persons** the illegal practice of finding and using human beings for unpaid often unpleasant work in situations their circumstances prevent them from leaving

traffic offences /'træfɪk əˌfensɪz/ *plural noun* offences committed by drivers of vehicles

traffic police /'træfɪk pəˌliːs/ *noun* a section of the police concerned with problems on the roads

traffic warden /'træfɪk ˌwɔːdən/ *noun* a person whose job is to regulate the traffic under the supervision of the police, especially to deal with cars which are illegally parked

trainee /treɪ'niː/ *noun* a young person who is learning a skill or job

traineeship /treɪ'niːʃɪp/ *noun* the period during which someone is working in a solicitor's office to learn the law

trainee solicitor /treɪˌniː sə'lɪsɪtə/ *noun* someone who is bound by a training contract to work in a solicitor's office for some years to learn the law (NOTE: This term has officially replaced **articled clerk**.)

training contract /ˌtreɪnɪŋ 'kɒntrækt/ *noun* a contract under which a trainee works in a solicitor's office to learn the law (NOTE: This term has officially replaced **articles**.)

training levy /'treɪnɪŋ ˌlevi/ *noun* a tax to be paid by companies to fund the government's training schemes

training officer /'treɪnɪŋ ˌɒfɪsə/ *noun* somebody who deals with the training of staff

transact /træn'zækt/ *verb* □ **to transact business** to carry out a piece of business

transaction /træn'zækʃən/ *noun* □ **a transaction on the Stock Exchange** purchase or sale of shares on the Stock Exchange

transcript /'trænˌskrɪpt/ *noun* a record in full of something noted in shorthand or of recorded speech ○ *The judge asked for a full transcript of the evidence.*

transfer *noun* /'trænsfɜː/ **1.** the movement of someone or something to a new place **2.** the movement of the hearing of a case to another court ■ *verb* /træns'fɜː/ to pass to someone else

transferable /træns'fɜːrəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being able to be passed to someone else □ **the season ticket is not transferable** the ticket cannot be given or lent to someone else to use

transferee /ˌtrænzfə'riː/ *noun* somebody to whom property or goods are transferred

transfer of property /ˌtrænsfɜː əv 'prɒpəti/, **transfer of shares** /ˌtrænsfɜː əv 'ʃeəz/ *noun* the movement of the ownership of property or shares from one person to another

transferor /træns'fɜːrə/ *noun* somebody who transfers goods or property to another

transit /'trænsɪt/ ◗ **in transit**

transit visa /'trænsɪt ˌviːzə/ *noun* a visa which allows someone to spend a short time in one country while travelling to another country

transparency /træns'pærənsi/ *noun* the state of being open and easy to understand ○ *Too many different decision-making processes can cause a lack of transparency.*

transparent /træns'pærənt/ *adjective* **1.** completely obvious ○ *Her explanation was a transparent lie.* **2.** open and honest about official actions ○ *The government insists on the importance all its actions being transparent.*

traveller's cheques /'træv(ə)ləz tʃeks/ *plural noun* cheques used by a traveller which can be exchanged for cash in a foreign country

traverse /trə'vɜːs/ *noun* denial in a pleading by one side in a case that the facts alleged by the other side are correct

treason /'triːz(ə)n/ *noun* a notifiable offence of betraying one's country, usually by helping the enemy in time of war ○ *He was accused of treason.* ○ *Three men were executed for treason.* ○ *The treason trial lasted three weeks.*

treasonable /'triːz(ə)nəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being considered as treason ○ *He was accused of making treasonable remarks.*

treason felony /ˌtriːz(ə)n 'feləni/ *noun* the notifiable offence of planning to remove a King or Queen, or of planning to start a war against the United Kingdom

treasure /'treʒə/ *noun* gold, silver or jewels, especially when found or stolen ○ *Thieves broke into the palace and stole the king's treasure.*

treasure trove /ˌtreʒə 'trəʊv/ *noun* treasure which has been hidden by some-

one in the past and has now been discovered

COMMENT: Formerly, any treasure found was declared to the coroner, who decided if it was treasure trove. If it was declared treasure trove, it belonged to the state, though the person who found it usually got a reward equal to its market value. Since 1997 there is a new Treasure Act regarding treasure. The word now covers objects made of at least 10% gold or silver and over 300 years old, whether they have been buried intentionally or simply lost. It also covers other items of value such as pottery. Anyone finding treasure still has to report it to the local coroner, but they will only receive a reward if a museum wants to acquire the object. The reward is based on an independent expert's valuation. The owner of the land where the object was found is now also eligible for a reward.

treasury /'treʒəri/ *noun* □ **the Treasury Benches** front benches in the House of Commons where the government ministers sit

COMMENT: In most countries, the government's finances are the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance, headed by the Finance Minister. In the UK, the Treasury is headed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

treasury bonds /'treʒəri bɒnd/ *plural noun* bonds issued by the Treasury of the USA

Treasury counsel /ˌtreʒəri 'kaʊnsəl/ *noun* a barrister who pleads in the Central Criminal Court on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Treasury Solicitor /ˌtreʒəri sə 'lɪsɪtə/ *noun* the solicitor who is the head of the Government's legal department in England and Wales and legal adviser to the Cabinet Office and other government departments

treaty /'triːti/ *noun* **1.** a written legal agreement between countries ○ *commercial treaty* ○ *cultural treaty* **2.** a formal written agreement, especially between two or more countries □ **to sell (a house) by private treaty** to sell (a house) to another person not by auction

Treaty of Accession /ˌtriːti əv ək 'seʃn/ *noun* the treaty whereby the UK joined the EC

Treaty of Rome /ˌtriːti əv 'rəʊm/ *noun* the treaty which established the EC in 1957

Treaty on European Union /ˌtriːti ɒn ˌjʊərəpiːən 'juːnjən/ *noun* the treaty which created the European Union, with three main pillars: the European Community, the Common Foreign and Security Policy, and the Common Home Affairs and Justice Policy. Abbreviation **TEU**

COMMENT: The TEU established a committee of the regions; the Court of Auditors became part of the Community; more emphasis was put on cooperation in culture, education, etc.; the European Parliament had a greater role than before; capital can move freely between Member States.

trespass /'trespəs/ *noun* the tort of interfering with the land or goods of another person (note that trespass on someone's property is not a criminal offence) (NOTE: Trespass on someone's property is not a criminal offence.) □ **trespass to goods** tort of harming, stealing or interfering with goods which belong to someone else □ **trespass to land** tort of interfering with, going on someone's property or putting things or animals on someone's property without permission □ **trespass to the person** tort of harming someone by assault or false imprisonment ■ *verb* to offend by going on to property without the permission of the owner

trespasser /'trespəsə/ *noun* somebody who commits trespass by going onto land without the permission of the owner

triable /'traɪəb(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to an offence for which a person can be tried in a court □ **offence triable either way** offence which can be tried before the Magistrates' Court or before the Crown Court

triad /'traɪæd/ *noun* a secret Chinese criminal organisation

trial /'traɪəl/ *noun* **1.** a criminal or civil court case heard before a judge ○ *The trial lasted six days.* ○ *The judge ordered a new trial when one of the jurors was found to be the accused's brother.* □ **he is on trial, is standing trial for embezzlement** he is being tried for embezzlement

□ **to commit someone for trial** to send someone to a court to be tried **2.** a test to see if something is good ◇ **on trial 1.** being tested ○ *the product is on trial in our laboratories* **2.** before a court

trial balance /ˈtraɪəl ˌbæləns/ *noun* a draft adding of debits and credits to see if they balance

trial bundle /ˌtraɪəl ˈbʌnd(ə)l/ *noun* all the documents brought together by the claimant for a trial in a ring binder

trial by jury /ˌtraɪəl baɪ ˈdʒʊəri/ *noun* proceedings where an accused is tried by a jury and judge

trial judge /ˈtraɪəl dʒʌdʒ/ *noun* a judge who is hearing a trial

trial location /ˌtraɪəl ləʊˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a place where a trial is to be held

trial period /ˌtraɪəl ˈpɪəriəd/ *noun* the time when a customer can test a product before buying it

trial sample /ˈtraɪəl ˌsɑːmpəl/ *noun* a small piece of a product used for testing

trial timetable /ˌtraɪəl ˈtaɪmteɪb(ə)l/ *noun* a detailed timetable of a hearing, set out in the listing directions, including information such as the length of time allowed for speeches and for cross-examination of witnesses

trial window /ˌtraɪəl ˈwɪndəʊ/ *noun* a period of three weeks during which a trial is scheduled to take place

tribunal /traɪˈbjuːn(ə)l/ *noun* a specialist court outside the judicial system which examines special problems and makes judgments

trier of fact /ˌtraɪə əv ˈfækt/ *noun US* a person such as a member of a jury whose role it is to find out the true facts about a case

Trinity /ˈtrɪnɪti/ *noun* **1.** one of the four sittings of the law courts **2.** one of the four law terms

Trinity House /ˌtrɪnɪti ˈhaʊz/ *noun* a body which superintends lighthouses and pilots in some areas of the British coast

trove ➧ **treasure**

trover /ˈtrəʊvə/ *noun* an action to recover property which has been converted, or goods which have been taken or passed to other parties

true /truː/ *adjective* correct or accurate □ **true copy** exact copy ○ *I certify that this is a true copy.* ○ *The document has been certified as a true copy.*

true bill /ˌtruː ˈbɪl/ *noun* the verdict by a grand jury that an indictment should proceed

trust /trʌst/ *noun* **1.** a feeling of confidence that something is correct, will work, etc. □ **we took his statement on trust** we accepted his statement without examining it to see if it was correct **2.** the duty of looking after goods, money or property which someone (the beneficiary) has passed to you (the trustee) ○ *He left his property in trust for his grandchildren.* **3.** the management of money or property for someone ○ *They set up a family trust for their grandchildren.* **4.** *US* a small group of companies which control the supply of a product ■ *verb* □ **to trust someone with something** to give something to someone to look after ○ *Can he be trusted with all that cash?*

trust company /ˈtrʌst ˌkʌmp(ə)ni/ *noun US* an organisation which supervises the financial affairs of private trusts, executes wills, and acts as a bank to a limited number of customers

trust deed /ˈtrʌst diːd/ *noun* a document which sets out the details of a trust

trustee /trʌˈstiː/ *noun* a person who has charge of money or property in trust ○ *the trustees of the pension fund*

trustee in bankruptcy /trʌˌstiː ɪn ˈbæŋkrʌptsi/ *noun* somebody who is appointed by a court to run the affairs of a bankrupt and pay his or her creditors

trusteeship /trʌˈstiːʃɪp/ *noun* the position of being a trustee ○ *The territory is under United Nations trusteeship.*

trust for sale /ˌtrʌst fə ˈseɪl/ *noun* a trust whereby property is held but can be sold and the money passed to the beneficiaries

trust fund /ˈtrʌst fʌnd/ *noun* assets such as money, securities or property that are held in trust for someone

trust territory /ˌtrʌst ˈterɪt(ə)ri/ *noun* a territory which is being administered by another country under a trusteeship agreement

trusty /'trʌsti/ *noun* a prisoner who is trusted by the prison warders (*slang*)

truth in sentencing /ˌtruːθ ɪn 'sentənsɪŋ/ *noun* the principal, often enforced by government legislation, that convicted criminals should serve the full sentence they have been given and not become eligible for early parole

try /traɪ/ *verb* to hear a civil or criminal trial ○ *He was tried for murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.* ○ *The court is not competent to try the case.*

TUC *abbreviation* Trades Union Congress

turnkey operation /'tɜːnkiː ɒpə ˌreɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a contract where a company takes all responsibility for building, fitting and staffing for a building such as a school, hospital or factory so that it is completely ready for the purchaser to take over at an agreed date

turn over /ˌtɜːn 'əʊvə/ *verb* to have a specific amount of sales ○ *We turn over £2,000 a week.*

U

uberrimae fidei /uːˌberɪmiː 'faɪdeɪ/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'of total good faith': state which should exist between parties to some types of legal relationship such as partnerships or insurance ○ *An insurance contract is uberrimae fidei.*

UCC *abbreviation* Universal Copyright Convention

UDI *abbreviation* Unilateral Declaration of Independence

ulterior motive /ʌlˌtɪəriə 'məʊtɪv/ *noun* a reason for doing something which is not immediately connected with the action, but is done in anticipation of its result and so is an act of bad faith

ultimate consumer /ˌʌltɪmət kən 'sjuːmə/ *noun* the person who actually uses the product

ultimate owner /ˌʌltɪmət 'əonə/ *noun* the real or true owner

ultimatum /ˌʌltɪ'meɪtəm/ *noun* a statement to someone that unless something is done within a period of time a punishment will follow (NOTE: The plural is **ultimatums** or **ultimata**.)

ultra-leftist /ˌʌltrə 'leftɪst/ *noun* extremely left-wing

ultra vires /ˌʌltrə 'vaɪriːz/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'beyond powers.' ◊ **intra vires** □ **their action was ultra vires** they acted in a way which exceeded their legal powers

umpire /'ʌmpaɪə/ *noun* a person called in to decide when two arbitrators cannot agree

unadmitted /ˌʌnəd'mɪtɪd/ *adjective* (*of a member of staff of a solicitor's office*) not having been admitted as a solicitor

unanimous /juː'nænɪməs/ *adjective* where everyone votes in the same way ○ *There was a unanimous vote against the proposal.* ○ *They reached unanimous agreement.* □ **unanimous verdict** verdict agreed by all the jurors ○ *The jury reached a unanimous verdict of not guilty.*

unanimously /juː'nænɪməsli/ *adverb* with everyone agreeing ○ *The appeal court decided unanimously in favour of the defendant.*

unascertained /ˌʌnæsə'teɪnd/ *adjective* not identified ○ *Title to unascertained goods cannot pass to the buyer until the goods have been ascertained.*

unborn /ʌn'bɔːn/ *adjective* referring to a child still in the mother's body and not yet born

unchallenged /ʌn'tʃælɪndʒd/ *adjective* not questioned or argued about

unclean ◊ **clean hands**

unconditional /ˌʌnkən'dɪʃ(ə)nəl/ *adjective* with no conditions attached ○ *unconditional acceptance of the offer by the board* ○ *On the claimant's application for summary judgment the master gave the defendant unconditional leave to defend.* □ **the offer went unconditional last Thursday** the takeover bid was accepted by the majority of the shareholders and therefore the conditions attached to it no longer apply

unconfirmed /ˌʌnkən'fɜːmd/ *adjective* having not been confirmed ○ *There are unconfirmed reports that a BBC reporter has been arrested.*

unconstitutional /ˌʌnkɒnstɪ 'tjuːʃ(ə)n(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** being not according to the constitution of a country ○ *Legislation which is contrary to European Community regulations is declared*

unconstitutional. ○ *The Appeal Court ruled that the action of the Attorney-General was unconstitutional.* **2.** being not allowed by the rules of an organisation ○ *The chairman ruled that the meeting was unconstitutional.*

uncontested /ˌʌnkən'testɪd/ *adjective* being not contested or defended ○ *an uncontested divorce case* or *election*

uncrossed cheque /ˌʌnkrɒst 'tʃek/ *noun* a cheque which does not have two lines across it and can be exchanged for cash anywhere

undefended /ˌʌndɪ'fendɪd/ *adjective* referring to a case in which the defendant does not acknowledge service and does not appear at the court to defend the case ○ *an undefended divorce case*

undercover agent /ˌʌndəkʌvə 'eɪdʒənt/ *noun* someone acting secretly to get information or catch criminals

underlease /'ʌndəliːs/ *noun* a lease from a tenant to another tenant

underlet /'ʌndəlet/ *verb* to let a property which is held on a lease

undermentioned /ˌʌndə 'menʃ(ə)nd/ *adjective* mentioned lower down in a document

undersheriff /'ʌndəˌʃerɪf/ *noun* a person who is second to a High Sheriff and deputises for him

undersigned /ˌʌndə'saɪnd/ *noun* somebody who has signed a letter □ **we, the undersigned** we, the people who have signed below

understanding /ˌʌndə'stændɪŋ/ *noun* a private agreement ○ *The two parties came to an understanding about the division of the estate.* □ **on the understanding that** on condition that, provided that ○ *We accept the terms of the contract, on the understanding that it has to be ratified by the full board.*

undertake /ˌʌndə'teɪk/ *verb* to promise to do something ○ *to undertake an investigation of the fraud* ○ *The members of the jury have undertaken not to read the newspapers.* ○ *He undertook to report to the probation office once a month.* (NOTE: **undertaking – undertook – has undertaken**)

undertaking /'ʌndəˌteɪkɪŋ/ *noun* **1.** a business ○ *a commercial undertaking* **2.** a promise to do something that has legal force ○ *They have given us a written undertaking that they will not infringe our patent.* ○ *The judge accepted the defendant's undertaking not to harass the claimant.*

undertenant /ˌʌndə'tenənt/ *noun* somebody who holds a property on an underlease

underworld /'ʌndəwɜːld/ *noun* the world of criminals ○ *The police has informers in the London underworld.* ○ *The indications are that it is an underworld killing.*

underwrite /ˌʌndə'raɪt/ *verb* **1.** to accept responsibility for □ **to underwrite a share issue** to guarantee that a share issue will be sold by agreeing to buy all shares which are not subscribed ○ *The issue was underwritten by three underwriting companies.* □ **to underwrite an insurance policy** to accept liability for the payment of compensation according to the policy **2.** to agree to pay for costs ○ *The government has underwritten the development costs of the building.* (NOTE: **underwriting – underwrote – has underwritten**)

underwriter /'ʌndəraɪtə/ *noun* **1.** somebody who underwrites a share issue **2.** somebody who accepts liability for an insurance

undesirable alien /ˌʌndɪzaɪrəb(ə)l 'eɪliən/ *noun* a person who is not a citizen of a country, and who the government considers should not be allowed to stay in the country ○ *He was deported as an undesirable alien.*

undischarged bankrupt /ˌʌndɪstʃɑːdʒd 'bæŋkrʌpt/ *noun* somebody who has been declared bankrupt and has not been released from that state

undisclosed /ˌʌndɪs'kləʊzd/ *adjective* not identified

COMMENT: The doctrine of the undisclosed principal means that the agent may be sued as well as the principal if his identity is discovered.

undisclosed principal /ˌʌndɪskləʊzd 'prɪnsɪp(ə)l/ *noun* a principal who has not been identified by his or her agent

undue influence /ˌʌndjuː ˈɪnfluəns/ *noun* wrongful pressure put on someone which prevents that person from acting independently

unemployment /ˌʌnɪmˈplɔɪmənt/ *noun* absence of work ○ *the unemployment figures* or *the figures for unemployment are rising*

unemployment pay /ˌʌnɪm ˈplɔɪmənt peɪ/ *noun* money given by the government to someone who is unemployed

unenforceable /ˌʌnɪnˈfɔːsəb(ə)l/ *adjective* unable to be enforced

unequivocal /ˌʌnɪˈkwɪvək(ə)l/ *adjective* clear and not ambiguous in any way

unfair /ʌnˈfeə/ *adjective* not just or reasonable

unfair competition /ˌʌnfeə ˌkɒmpə ˈtɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an attempt to do better than another company by using methods such as importing foreign products at very low prices or by wrongly criticising a competitor's products

unfair contract term /ˌʌnfeə ˈkɒntrækt tɜːm/ *noun* a term in a contract which is held by law to be unjust

unfair dismissal /ˌʌnfeə dɪs ˈmɪs(ə)l/ *noun* the act of removing someone from a job in a way that appears not to be reasonable such as dismissing someone who wants to join a union

COMMENT: An employee can complain of unfair dismissal to an employment tribunal.

unfit to plead /ʌnˌfɪt tə ˈpliːd/ *noun* mentally not capable of being tried

uni- /juːni/ *prefix* meaning single

Uniform Commercial Code /ˌjuːnɪfɔːm kəˌmɜːʃ(ə)l ˈkəʊd/ *noun* in the USA, a set of uniform laws governing commercial transactions

unilateral /ˌjuːnɪˈlæt(ə)rəl/ *adjective* on one side only, or done by one party only ○ *They took the unilateral decision to cancel the contract.*

unilaterally /ˌjuːnɪˈlæt(ə)rəli/ *adverb* by one party only ○ *They cancelled the contract unilaterally.*

unincorporated association /ˌʌnɪnkɔːpəreɪtɪd əˌsəʊsiˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a group of people, such as a club or partnership, which is not legally incorporated

uninsured /ʌnɪnˈʃʊəd/ *adjective* with no valid insurance ○ *The driver of the car was uninsured.*

United Kingdom /juːˌnaɪtɪd ˈkɪŋdəm/ *noun* an independent country, formed of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland ○ *He came to the UK to study.* ○ *Does she have a UK passport?* ○ *Is he a UK citizen?* Abbreviation **UK**

United Nations /juːˌnaɪtɪd ˈneɪʃ(ə)nz/**, United Nations Organization** *noun* an international organisation including almost all sovereign states in the world, where member states are represented at meetings. Abbreviation **UNO**

United States Code /juːˌnaɪtɪd steɪts ˈkəʊd/ *noun* a book containing all the permanent laws of the USA, arranged in sections according to subject, and revised from time to time

United States of America /juːˌnaɪtɪd steɪts əv əˈmerɪkə/ *noun* an independent country, a federation of 50 states in North America. Abbreviation **USA**

COMMENT: The federal government (based in Washington D.C.) is formed of a legislature (the Congress) with two chambers (the Senate and House of Representatives), an executive (the President) and a judiciary (the Supreme Court). Each of the fifty states making up the USA has its own legislature and executive (the Governor) as well as its own legal system and constitution.

Universal Copyright Convention /ˌjuːnɪvɜːs(ə)l ˈkɒpiraɪt kənˌvenʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an international agreement on copyright set up by the United Nations in Geneva in 1952. Abbreviation **UCC**

COMMENT: Both the Berne Convention of 1886 and the UCC were drawn up to try to protect copyright from pirates; under the Berne Convention, published material remains in copyright until 50 years after the death of the author and for 25 years after publication under the UCC. In both cases, a work which is copyrighted in one country is automatically covered by the copyright legislation of all countries signing the convention.

universal franchise /ˌjuːnɪvɜːs(ə)l ˈfræntʃaɪz/ *noun* the right to vote which

is given to all adult members of the population

universal suffrage /ˌjuːnɪvɜːs(ə)l ˈsʌfrɪdʒ/ *noun* same as **universal franchise**

unjust /ʌnˈdʒʌst/ *adjective* not according to legal or reasonable moral standards

unlawful /ʌnˈlɔːf(ə)l/ *adjective* against the law □ **unlawful sexual intercourse** sexual intercourse with someone who is under the age of consent, etc. □ **verdict of unlawful killing** (*in a coroner's court*) verdict that a person's death was murder or manslaughter

unlawful assembly /ʌnˌlɔːf(ə)l əˈsemblɪ/ *noun* a notifiable offence when a number of people come together to commit a breach of the peace or any other crime

unless order /ənˌles ˈɔːdə/ *noun* an order that a statement of claim will be struck out if a party does not comply with the order

unlimited company /ʌnˌlɪmɪtɪd ˈkʌmp(ə)ni/ *noun* a company where the shareholders have no limit as regards liability

unlimited liability /ʌnˌlɪmɪtɪd ˌlaɪəˈbɪlɪti/ *noun* a situation where a sole trader or each single partner is responsible for all the firm's debts with no limit at the amount each may have to pay

unliquidated claim /ˌʌnlɪkwɪdeɪtɪd ˈkleɪm/ *noun* a claim for unliquidated damages

unliquidated damages /ˌʌnlɪkwɪdeɪtɪd ˈdæmɪdʒɪz/ *plural noun* damages which are not for a fixed amount of money but are awarded by a court as a matter of discretion depending on the case

COMMENT: Torts give rise to claims for unliquidated damages.

unmarried /ʌnˈmærid/ *adjective* not legally married

unofficial /ˌʌnəˈfɪʃ(ə)l/ *adjective* not official

unofficially /ʌnəˈfɪʃəli/ *adverb* not officially ○ *The tax office told the company, unofficially, that it would be prosecuted.*

unopposed /ˌʌnəˈpəʊzd/ *adjective* (motion) with no one voting against

unparliamentary /ʌnˌpɑːləˈment(ə)ri/ *adjective* not suitable for Parliament

COMMENT: Various terms of abuse are considered unparliamentary, in particular words which suggest that an MP has not told the truth. In a recent exchange in the House of Commons, a Member called others 'clowns' and 'drunks'; the Deputy Speaker said: 'Order. That is unparliamentary language, and I must ask the hon. Member to withdraw'. Another recent example occurred when an MP said: 'if the hon. Member were honest, I suspect that he would have to do the same'. *Mr. Speaker:* 'Order. All hon. Members are honest.'.

unprecedented /ʌnˈpresɪdentɪd/ *adjective* having not happened before, or having no legal precedent ○ *In an unprecedented move, the tribunal asked the witness to sing a song.*

unprofessional conduct /ʌnprəˌfeʃən(ə)l ˈkɒndʌkt/ *noun* a way of behaving which is not suitable for a professional person and goes against the code of practice of a profession

unquantifiable /ʌnˌkwɒntɪˈfaɪəb(ə)l/ *adjective* unable to be stated exactly

unreasonable /ʌnˈriːz(ə)nəb(ə)l/ *adjective* not fair or acceptable according to what might be usually expected

unreasonable conduct /ʌnˌriːz(ə)nəb(ə)l kənˈdʌkt/ *noun* behaviour by a spouse which is not reasonable and which shows that a marriage has broken down

unreasonably /ʌnˈriːz(ə)nəbli/ *adverb* in a way which is not reasonable or which cannot be explained ○ *Approval of any loan will not be unreasonably withheld.*

unredeemed pledge /ˌʌnrɪdiːmdˈpledʒ/ *noun* a pledge which the borrower has not claimed back by paying back his or her loan

unregistered /ʌnˈredʒɪstəd/ *adjective* referring to land which has not been registered

unreliable /ˌʌnrɪˈlaɪəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being impossible to rely on ○ *The prose-*

cution tried to show that the driver's evidence was unreliable. ○ *The defence called two witnesses and both were unreliable.*

unreported /ˌʌnrɪˈpɔːtɪd/ *adjective* **1.** not reported to the police ○ *There are thousands of unreported cases of theft.* **2.** not reported in the Law Reports ○ *Counsel referred the judge to a number of relevant unreported cases.*

unsafe /ʌnˈseɪf/ *adjective* referring to a judgment which is not acceptable in law and may be quashed on appeal

unsecured creditor /ˌʌnsɪkjʊəd ˈkredɪtə/ *noun* a creditor who is owed money, but has no mortgage or charge over the debtor's property as security

unsecured debt /ˌʌnsɪkjʊəd ˈdet/ *noun* a debt which is not guaranteed by assets

unsecured loan /ˌʌnsɪkjʊəd ˈləʊn/ *noun* a loan made with no security

unsolicited /ʌnsəˈlɪsɪtɪd/ *adjective* having not been asked for ○ *an unsolicited gift*

unsolicited goods /ˌʌnsəlɪsɪtɪd ˈgʊdz/ *plural noun* goods which are sent to someone who has not asked for them, suggesting that he or she might like to buy them

unsolved /ʌnˈsɒlvd/ *adjective* not solved ○ *an unsolved crime*

unsound /ʌnˈsaʊnd/ *adjective* □ **persons of unsound mind** people who are not sane

unsworn /ʌnˈswɔːn/ *adjective* having not been made on oath ○ *an unsworn statement*

unwritten agreement /ʌnˌrɪt(ə)n əˈgriːmənt/ *noun* an agreement which has been reached orally but has not been written down

unwritten law /ʌnˌrɪt(ə)n ˈlɔː/ *noun* a rule which is established by precedent

uphold /ʌpˈhəʊld/ *verb* to keep in good order □ **to uphold the law** to make sure that laws are obeyed □ **to uphold a sentence** to reject an appeal against a sentence ○ *The Appeal Court upheld the sentence.*

uplift /ˈʌplɪft/ *noun* in a conditional fee agreement, an extra fee paid by a client to a lawyer if the case is won

Upper Chamber /ˌʌpə ˈtʃeɪmbə/ *noun* the House of Lords or the Senate

upper class /ˈʌpə klɑːs/ *noun* the aristocracy and the richest and most influential business and professional people

upper middle class /ˌʌpə ˈmɪd(ə)l klɑːs/ *noun* wealthy professional people and businessmen

urine sample /ˌjʊərɪn ˈsɑːmpəl/ *noun* a small amount of urine taken from someone to be tested

urine test /ˈjʊərɪn test/ *noun* a test of a sample of a person's urine to see if it contains drugs or alcohol

use /juːs/ *noun* **1.** land held by the legal owner on trust for a beneficiary **2.** □ **land zoned for industrial use** land where planning permission has been given to build factories

user's guide /ˈjuːzəz gaɪd/ *noun* a book showing someone how to use something

usher /ˈʌʃə/ *noun* somebody who guards the door leading into a courtroom and maintains order in court

usufruct /ˈjuːsjufrʌkt/ *noun* the right to enjoy the use or the profit of the property or land of another person

usurp /juːˈzɜːp/ *verb* to take and use someone's else role, position or right when you do not have the authority to do it

usurpation /juːzɜːˈpeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the activity of taking and using a right which is not yours

usurper /juːˈzɜːpə/ *noun* somebody who usurps power ○ *The army killed the usurper and placed the king back on his throne again.*

usury /ˈjuːʒəri/ *noun* the practice of lending money at very high interest

utter /ˈʌtə/ *verb* to use a forged document criminally

V

v. against. Abbreviation of **versus** (NOTE: Titles of cases are quoted as *Hills v. The Amalgamated Company Ltd; R. v. Smith.*)

vacant /'veɪkənt/ *adjective* not occupied

vacantia ◗ **bona vacantia**

vacant possession /ˌveɪkənt pə 'zeʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the right to occupy a property immediately after buying it because it is empty ○ *The property is to be sold with vacant possession.*

vacate /və'keɪt/ *verb* □ **to vacate the premises** to leave premises, so that they become empty

vacation /və'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a period when the courts are closed between sittings **2.** *US* a period when people are not working

vagrancy /'veɪgrənsi/ *noun* the state of being a vagrant ○ *He was charged with vagrancy.*

vagrant /'veɪgrənt/ *noun* somebody who goes about with no work and no place to live

valid /'vælɪd/ *adjective* **1.** being acceptable because it is true ○ *That is not a valid argument* or *excuse.* **2.** being able to be used lawfully ○ *The contract is not valid if it has not been witnessed.* ○ *Ticket which is valid for three months.* ○ *He was carrying a valid passport.*

validate /'vælɪˌdeɪt/ *verb* **1.** to check to see if something is correct ○ *The document was validated by the bank.* **2.** to make something valid ○ *The import documents have to be validated by the customs officials.*

validation /ˌvælɪ'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of making something valid

validity /və'lɪdɪti/ *noun* the state of being valid ○ *A national court can ask the ECJ for a ruling about the validity of a Community act.*

valorem /və'lɔːrəm/ ◗ **ad valorem**

valuable /'væljʊəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being worth a lot of money

valuable consideration /ˌvæljʊəb(ə)l kənˌsɪdə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* something of value which is passed from one party (the promisee) to another (the promisor) as payment for what is promised

valuable property /ˌvæljʊb(ə)l 'prɒpəti/ *noun* personal items which are worth a lot of money

valuation /ˌvælju'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an estimate of how much something is worth ○ *to ask for a valuation of a property before making an offer for it*

value /'væljuː/ *noun* the amount of money which something is worth ○ *the fall in the value of the dollar* ○ *He imported goods to the value of £250.* ○ *The valuer put the value of the stock at £25,000.* ■ *verb* to estimate how much money something is worth ○ *goods valued at £250* ○ *He valued the stock at £25,000.* ○ *We are having the jewellery valued for insurance.*

Value Added Tax /ˌvæljuː ædɪd 'tæks/ *noun* a tax imposed as a percentage of the invoice value of goods and services. Abbreviation **VAT**

valued policy /ˌvæljuːd 'pɒlɪsi/ *noun* a marine insurance policy where the value of what is insured is stated

valuer /'væljʊə/ *noun* somebody who values property for insurance purposes

vandal /'vænd(ə)l/ *noun* somebody who destroys property, especially public

property, wilfully ○ *Vandals have pulled the telephones out of the call boxes.*

vandalise /'vændəlaɪz/**, vandalize** *verb* to destroy property wilfully ○ *None of the call boxes work because they have all been vandalised.*

vandalism /'vændəˌlɪz(ə)m/ *noun* the wilful destruction of property

variable /'veəriəb(ə)l/ *adjective* changing

variable costs /ˌveəriəb(ə)l 'kɒsts/ *plural noun* costs of producing a product or service which change according to the amount produced

variance /'veəriəns/ *noun* the difference

variation /ˌveəri'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the amount by which something changes □ **seasonal variations** changes which take place because of the seasons **2.** a change in conditions ○ *The petitioner asked for a variation in her maintenance order.*

vary /'veəri/ *verb* to change ○ *The court has been asked to vary the conditions of the order.* ○ *Demand for social services varies according to the weather.*

VAT /ˌviː eɪ 'tiː, væt/ *abbreviation* Value Added Tax

VAT declaration /'væt deklə ˌreɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a statement declaring VAT income to the VAT office

vault /vɔːlt/ *noun* an underground strongroom usually built under a bank

VC *abbreviation* Vice Chancellor

vendee /ven'diː/ *noun* somebody who buys

vendible /'vendɪb(ə)l/ *adjective* able to be sold ○ *For a patent application to succeed, the product being patented must be vendible.*

vendor /'vendə/ *noun* somebody who sells ○ *the solicitor acting on behalf of the vendor*

venue /'venjuː/ *noun* a place where a meeting or hearing is held

verbal /'vɜːb(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** using spoken words, not writing **2.** referring to spoken or written evidence ■ *verb* to use threatening words when interviewing a suspect

verbal agreement /ˌvɜːb(ə)l ə 'griːmənt/ *noun* an agreement which is spoken and not written down

verbal evidence /ˌvɜːb(ə)l 'evɪd(ə)ns/ *noun* written or spoken evidence. Compare **non-verbal evidence** (NOTE: British lawyers refer specifically to spoken evidence as oral evidence.)

verbally /'vɜːbəli/ *adverb* using spoken words, not writing ○ *They agreed to the terms verbally, and then started to draft the contract.*

verbals /'vɜːb(ə)lz/ *plural noun* words spoken to a police officer by a suspect (*informal*)

verbal warning /ˌvɜːb(ə)l 'wɔːnɪŋ/ *noun* a stage in warning an employee that his or her work is not satisfactory, followed by a written warning, if performance does not improve

verbatim /vɜː'beɪtɪm/ *adjective, adverb* in the exact words ○ *a verbatim transcript of the trial* ○ *Hansard provides a verbatim account of the proceedings of the House of Commons.*

verdict /'vɜːdɪkt/ *noun* **1.** the decision of a jury or magistrate □ **to bring in, to return a verdict** to state a verdict at the end of a trial ○ *The jury brought in* or *returned a verdict of not guilty.* □ **to come to a verdict, to reach a verdict** to decide whether the accused is guilty or not ○ *The jury took two hours to reach their verdict.* **2.** the decision reached by a coroner's court ○ *The court returned a verdict of death by misadventure.*

versa ◗ **vice versa**

versus /'vɜːsəs/ *preposition* against (NOTE: usually abbreviated to **v.** as in **the case of** *Smith v. Williams*)

vest /vest/ *verb* to transfer to someone the legal ownership and possession of land or of a right ○ *The property was vested in the trustees.* (NOTE: You vest something **in** *or* **on** someone.)

vested interest /ˌvestɪd 'ɪntrəst/ *noun* an interest in a property which will come into a person's possession when the interest of another person ends

vested remainder /ˌvestɪd rɪ 'meɪndə/ *noun* a remainder which is absolutely vested in a person

vesting assent /ˌvestɪŋ əˈsent/ *noun* a document which vests settled land on a tenant for life

vesting order /ˌvestɪŋ ˈɔːdə/ *noun* a court order which transfers property

vet /vet/ *verb* to examine someone or a document carefully to see if there is any breach of security ○ *All applications are vetted by the Home Office.*

veto /ˈviːtəʊ/ *noun* a ban or order not to allow something to become law, even if it has been passed by a parliament ○ *The President has the power of veto over Bills passed by Congress.* ○ *The UK used its veto in the Security Council.* ■ *verb* to refuse to allow something, especially to use an official power to do so ○ *The resolution was vetoed by the president.* ○ *The council has vetoed all plans to hold protest marches in the centre of town.*

COMMENT: In the United Nations Security Council, each of the five permanent members has a veto. In the USA, the President may veto a bill sent to him by Congress, provided he does so within ten days of receiving it. The bill then returns to Congress for further discussion, and the President's veto can be overridden by a two-thirds majority in both House of Representatives and Senate.

vexatious /vekˈseɪʃəs/ *adjective* annoying

vexatious action /vekˌseɪʃəs ˈækʃən/ *noun* a case brought in order to annoy the defendant

vexatious litigant /vekˌseɪʃəs ˈlɪtɪgənt/ *noun* somebody who frequently starts legal actions to annoy people and who is barred from bringing actions without leave of the court

viable /ˈvaɪəb(ə)l/ *adjective* able to be done □ **not commercially viable** not likely to make a profit □ **viable alternative** different proposal which may work

vicarious /vɪˈkeəriəs/ *adjective* not personally interested

COMMENT: If the employee is on a frolic of his own, the employer may not be liable.

vicarious liability /vɪˌkeəriəs ˌlaɪəˈbɪlɪti/ *noun* a liability of one person for torts committed by another, especially the liability of an employer for acts committed by an employee in the course of work

vicariously /vɪˈkeəriəsli/ *adverb* not directly

vicarious performance /vɪˌkeəriəs pəˈfɔːməns/ *noun* the performance of a contract where the work has been done by a third party

vice /vaɪs/ *Latin word meaning* 'in the place of' ○ *was present: Councillor Smith (vice Councillor Brown)*

Vice Chancellor /ˌvaɪs ˈtʃɑːnsələ/ *noun* a senior judge in charge of the Chancery Division of the High Court. Abbreviation **VC**

vice-consul /ˌvaɪs ˈkɒnsəl/ *noun* a diplomat with a rank below consul

Vice-President /ˌvaɪs ˈprezɪdənt/ *noun* the deputy to a president

COMMENT: In the USA, the Vice-President is the president (i.e. the chairman) of the Senate. He also succeeds a president if the president dies in office (as Vice-President Johnson succeeded President Kennedy).

vice versa /ˌvaɪsi ˈvɜːsə/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'reverse position': in the opposite way ○ *the responsibilities of the employer towards the employee and vice versa*

victim /ˈvɪktɪm/ *noun* somebody who suffers a crime or a wrong ○ *The mugger left his victim lying in the road.* ○ *He was the victim of a con trick.* ○ *The accident victims* or *victims of the accident were taken to hospital.*

victimless crime /ˌvɪktɪmləs ˈkraɪm/ *noun* a crime where there is no obvious victim, e.g. drug pushing or prostitution

vide /ˈvɪdi/ *Latin word meaning* 'see': used in written texts to refer to another reference

videlicet /ˈvɪdiːlɪset/ *phrase* a Latin word meaning 'that is' (NOTE: usually abbreviated to **viz**)

video conferencing /ˈvɪdiəʊ ˌkɒnf(ə)rənsɪŋ/ *noun* a system of conducting a hearing using closed-circuit television and recording the events on tape

Vienna Conventions /viˌenə kən ˈvenʃ(ə)nz/ *noun* conventions signed in

Austria, generally relating to international treaties and the rights of diplomats

villain /'vɪlən/ *noun* a criminal (*informal*) ○ *The job of the policeman is to catch villains.*

villainy /'vɪlənɪ/ *noun* a wilful illegal act

violate /'vaɪəleɪt/ *verb* to break a rule or a law ○ *The council has violated the planning regulations.* ○ *The action of the government violates the international treaty on commercial shipping.* ○ *The legislation was inapplicable in this case, and the country had not violated the Treaty.*

violation /ˌvaɪə'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of breaking a rule ○ *The number of traffic violations has increased.* ○ *The court criticised the violations of the treaty on human rights.* □ **in violation of a rule** breaking a rule

violence /'vaɪələns/ *noun* an action using force □ **violence against the person** one of the types of notifiable offences against the person, e.g. murder, assault

violent /'vaɪələnt/ *adjective* using force ○ *a violent attack on the police* □ **the prisoner became violent** the prisoner tried to attack

virement /'vaɪəmənt/ *noun* the transfer of money from one account to another or from one section of a budget to another ○ *The council may use the virement procedure to transfer money from one area of expenditure to another.*

vires ◆ **intra vires, ultra vires**

virtue /'vɜːtʃuː/ *noun* good quality

virtute officii /vɜːˌtuːti ɒ'fɪsɪi/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'because of his office'

visa /'viːzə/ *noun* a special document or special stamp in a passport which allows someone to enter a country ○ *You will need a visa before you go to the USA.* ○ *She filled in her visa application form.*

visitor /'vɪzɪtə/ *noun* somebody who goes to see someone for a short time

visitor's visa /'vɪzɪtəz ˌviːzə/ *noun* a visa which allows a person to visit a country for a short time

vis major /ˌvɪs 'meɪdʒə/ *noun* Latin words meaning 'superior force': force of people or of nature such as a revolution or an earthquake which cannot be stopped

vital statistics /ˌvaɪt(ə)l stə'tɪstɪks/ *noun* statistics dealing with births, marriages and deaths in a town or district

viva voce /ˌvaɪvə 'vəʊtʃi/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'orally', 'by speaking'

vivos /'vaɪvəʊs/ *plural noun* a Latin word meaning 'living people'

viz ◆ **videlicet**

void /vɔɪd/ *adjective* not having any legal effect □ **the contract was declared null and void** the contract was said to be no longer valid ■ *verb* □ **to void a contract** to make a contract invalid

voidable /'vɔɪdəb(ə)l/ *adjective* being able to be made void

COMMENT: A contract is void where it never had legal effect, but is voidable if it is apparently of legal effect and remains of legal effect until one or both parties take steps to rescind it.

voided /'vɔɪdɪd/ *adjective* deprived of legal force

void marriage /ˌvɔɪd 'mærɪdʒ/ *noun* a marriage which is declared not to have had any legal existence

volenti non fit injuria /vəʊˌlentɪ nəʊn fɪt ɪn'dʒʊərɪə/ *phrase* a Latin phrase meaning 'there can be no injury to a person who is willing': a rule that if someone has agreed to take the risk of an injury he or she cannot sue for it, as in the case of someone injured in a boxing match

volition /və'lɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the will to do something □ **of your own volition** because you decide to do something yourself ○ *She gave up her job of her own volition.*

voluntary /'vɒlənt(ə)rɪ/ *adjective* **1.** done without being forced or without being paid **2.** without being paid a salary

voluntary confession /ˌvɒlənt(ə)rɪ kən'feʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a confession made by an accused person without being threatened or paid

voluntary disposition /ˌvɒlənt(ə)rɪ ˌdɪspə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the transfer of property without any valuable consideration

voluntary liquidation /ˌvɒlənt(ə)ri ˌlɪkwɪ'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a situation where a company itself decides it must close and sell its assets

voluntary manslaughter /ˌvɒlənt(ə)ri 'mænslɔːtə/ *noun* the offence of killing someone intentionally, but under mitigating circumstances such as provocation or diminished responsibility. ◊ **involuntary manslaughter**

voluntary organisation /'vɒlənt(ə)ri ˌɔːgənaɪzeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an organisation which has no paid staff

voluntary redundancy /ˌvɒlənt(ə)ri rɪ'dʌndənsi/ *noun* a situation where the employee asks to be made redundant, usually in return for a payment

voluntary unemployment /ˌvɒlənt(ə)ri ʌnɪm'plɔɪmənt/ *noun* a situation where an employee resigns from a job of his or her own free will and does not look for another

volunteer /ˌvɒlən'tɪə/ *noun* **1.** somebody who gives or receives property without consideration **2.** somebody who offers to do something without being forced ■ *verb* **1.** to offer information without being asked ○ *He volunteered the information that the defendant was not in fact a British subject.* **2.** to offer to do something without being forced ○ *Six men volunteered to go into the burning house.*

vote down /ˌvəʊt 'daʊn/ *verb* □ **to vote down** to defeat a motion ○ *The proposal was voted down.*

vote in /ˌvəʊt 'ɪn/ *verb* □ **to vote someone in** to elect someone ○ *The Tory candidate was voted in.*

vote out /ˌvəʊt 'aʊt/ *verb* □ **to vote someone out** to make someone lose an election ○ *The government was voted out of office within a year.*

voter /'vəʊtə/ *noun* somebody who votes

voting /'vəʊtɪŋ/ *noun* the act of making a vote

voting paper /'vəʊtɪŋ ˌpeɪpə/ *noun* a piece of paper on which the voter puts a cross to show for whom he or she wants to vote

voting rights /'vəʊtɪŋ raɪts/ *plural noun* rights of shareholders to voting at company meetings

vouch for /'vaʊtʃ fɔː/ *verb* **1.** to state that you believe something is correct, to say that you take responsibility for something ○ *I cannot vouch for the correctness of the transcript of proceedings.* **2.** to say that you take responsibility for something

W

wage claim /'weɪdʒ kleɪm/ *noun* a request for an increase in wages

wage review /'weɪdʒ rɪˌvjuː/ *noun* an examination of salaries or wages in a company to see if the employees should earn more

waive /weɪv/ *verb* to give up a right ○ *He waived his claim to the estate.* □ **to waive a payment** to say that payment is not necessary

waiver /'weɪvə/ *noun* an act of voluntarily giving up a right, or removing the conditions of a rule ○ *If you want to work without a permit, you will have to apply for a waiver.*

waiver clause /'weɪvə klɔːz/ *noun* a clause in a contract giving the conditions under which the rights in the contract can be given up

Wales and Chester Circuit /ˌweɪlz ən 'tʃestə ˌsɜːkɪt/ *noun* one of the six circuits of the Crown Court to which barristers belong, with its centre in Cardiff

walking possession /ˌwɔːkɪŋ pə 'zeʃ(ə)n/ *noun* temporary possession of a debtor's goods taken by a bailiff or sheriff until they can be sold to satisfy execution

wall safe /'wɔːl seɪf/ *noun* a safe fixed in a wall

wanted /'wɒntɪd/ *adjective* required for questioning as a suspect in a crime

war crimes /'wɔː kraɪmz/ *plural noun* criminal acts committed by a country, or by people in positions of power during time of war

ward /wɔːd/ *noun* **1.** a division of a town or city for administrative purposes □ **an electoral ward** area of a town represented by a councillor on a local council **2.** a minor protected by a guardian ○ *Mr Jones acting on behalf of his ward, Miss Smith.* **3.** a minor protected by a court ■ *verb* to make a child a ward ○ *The court warded the girl.*

warden /'wɔːd(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** somebody who is in charge of an institution **2.** *US* the head of a prison (NOTE: The British equivalent is **prison governor**.) **3.** somebody who sees that rules are obeyed

warder /'wɔːdə/ *noun* a guard in a prison

ward of court /ˌwɔːd əv 'kɔːt/ *noun* a minor under the protection of the High Court ○ *The High Court declared the girl ward of court, to protect her from her uncle who wanted to take her out of the country.*

wardship /'wɔːdʃɪp/ *noun* **1.** the role of being in charge of a ward ○ *The judge has discretion to exercise the wardship jurisdiction.* **2.** the power of a court to take on itself the rights and responsibilities of parents in the interests of a child

warehousing /'weəhaʊzɪŋ/ *noun* the act of storing goods ○ *Warehousing costs are rising rapidly.* □ **warehousing in bond** keeping imported goods in a warehouse without payment of duty, either to be exported again, or for sale into the country when the duty has been paid

warrant /'wɒrənt/ *noun* **1.** an official document from a court which allows someone to do something □ **to issue a warrant for the arrest of someone**, **to issue an arrest warrant for someone** to make out and sign an official document which authorises the police to arrest someone **2.** an official document authorising the payment of money ○ *a dividend warrant*

warrantee /ˌwɒrən'tiː/ *noun* somebody who is given a warranty

warrant of attachment /ˌwɒrənt əv əˈtætʃmənt/ *noun* a warrant which authorises the bailiff to arrest a person in contempt of court

warrant of committal /ˌwɒrənt əv kəˈmɪt(ə)l/ *noun* same as **committal warrant**

warrant of execution /ˌwɒrənt əv ˌeksɪˈkjuːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a warrant issued by a court which gives the bailiffs or sheriffs the power to seize goods from a debtor in order to pay his or her debts

warrantor /ˌwɒrənˈtɔː/ *noun* somebody who gives a warranty

warranty /ˈwɒrənti/ *noun* **1.** a guarantee ○ *The car is sold with a twelve-month warranty.* ○ *The warranty covers spare parts but not labour costs.* **2.** a contractual term which is secondary to the main purpose of the contract **3.** a statement made by an insured person which declares that the facts stated by them are true

wash sale /ˈwɒʃ seɪl/ *noun* the activity of buying stock and selling it almost immediately, to give the impression that business is good

wasted costs order /ˌweɪstɪd kɒsts ˈɔːdə/ *noun* an order by a court that a party has to pay the costs involved in a case which has to be postponed because the party's representative is badly prepared or incompetent

watch /wɒtʃ/ *noun* a group of people who patrol the streets to maintain law and order

watch committee /ˈwɒtʃ kəˌmɪti/ *noun* a committee of a local authority which supervises the policing of an area

watchdog /ˈwɒtʃdɒg/, **watchdog body** /ˈwɒtʃdɒg ˌbɒdi/ *noun* **1.** a body which sees that the law is obeyed ○ *The Commission acts as the watchdog for competition law.* **2.** a body which takes note of what official bodies such as government departments or commercial firms are doing to see that regulations are not being abused

water pollution /ˈwɔːtə pəˌluːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the polluting of the sea, rivers, lakes or canals

weapon /ˈwepən/ *noun* □ **dangerous, offensive weapon** an item which can be used to harm someone physically, e.g. a gun, a knife □ **carrying offensive weapons** the offence of holding a weapon or something such as a bottle which could be used as a weapon

Weekly Law Reports /ˌwiːkli ˈlɔː rɪ ˌpɔːts/ *plural noun* regular reports of cases published by the Council of Law Reporting. Abbreviation **WLR**

weight limit /ˈweɪt ˌlɪmɪt/ *noun* the maximum permitted weight

welfare /ˈwelfeə/ *noun* the state of being well cared for ○ *It is the duty of the juvenile court to see to the welfare of children in care.*

Wells notice /ˈwelz ˌnəʊtɪs/ *noun* a notice from the US Securities and Exchange Commission informing the recipient that a lawsuit will be filed against him or he and outlining the charges and evidence supporting them

Western Circuit /ˌwestən ˈsɜːkɪt/ *noun* one of the six circuits of the Crown Court to which barristers belong, with its centre in Bristol

whatsoever /ˌwɒtsəʊˈevə/ *adjective* of any sort ○ *There is no substance whatsoever in the report.* ○ *The police found no suspicious documents whatsoever.* (NOTE: always used after a noun and after a negative)

whereas /weəˈæz/ *conjunction* as the situation is stated, taking the following fact into consideration ○ *whereas the property is held in trust for the appellant* ○ *whereas the contract between the two parties stipulated that either party may withdraw at six months' notice*

whereby /weəˈbaɪ/ *adverb* by which ○ *a deed whereby ownership of the property is transferred*

wherein /weərˈɪn/ *adverb* in which ○ *a document wherein the regulations are listed*

whereof /weərˈɒv/ *adverb* of which □ **in witness whereof I sign my hand** I sign as a witness that this is correct

whereon /weərˈɒn/ *adverb* on which ○ *land whereon a dwelling is constructed*

wheresoever /ˌweəsəʊˈevə/ *adverb* in any place where ○ *the insurance covering jewels wheresoever they may be kept*

White Book /ˈwaɪt bʊk/ *noun* a book containing the Rules of the Supreme Court and a commentary on them

white collar crime /ˌwaɪt ˌkɒlə ˈkraɪm/ *noun* crime committed by business people or office workers, e.g. embezzlement, computer fraud or insider dealings

White Paper /ˌwaɪt ˈpeɪpə/ *noun* a report issued by the government as a statement of government policy on a particular problem, often setting out proposals for changes to legislation for discussion before a Bill is drafted. Compare **Green Paper**

whole-life insurance /ˌhəʊl ˈlaɪf ɪn ˌʃʊərəns/ *noun* an insurance policy for which the insured person pays premiums for an entire lifetime and the insurance company pays a sum when he or she dies (NOTE: For life insurance, British English prefers to use **assurance**.)

wholesale /ˈhəʊlseɪl/ *adjective*, *adverb* buying goods direct from the producers and selling in large quantities to traders who then sell in smaller quantities to the general public

wholesale dealer /ˈhəʊlseɪl ˌdiːlə/ *noun* somebody who buys in bulk from producers and sells to retailers

wholly-owned subsidiary /ˌhəʊlli əʊnd səbˈsɪdjəri/ *noun* a company which is owned completely by another company

wilful /ˈwɪlf(ə)l/ *adjective* **1.** (person) who is determined to do what he or she wants **2.** done because someone wants to do it, regardless of the effect it may have on others (NOTE: [all senses] The US spelling is **willful**.)

wilfully /ˈwɪlfʊli/ *adverb* done because someone wants to do it, regardless of the effect on others ○ *He wilfully set fire to the building.*

wilful misconduct /ˌwɪlf(ə)l mɪsˈkɒndʌkt/ *noun* an act of doing something which harms someone while knowing it is wrong

wilful murder /ˌwɪlf(ə)l ˈmɜːdə/ *noun* murder which is premeditated

wilful neglect /ˌwɪlf(ə)l nɪˈglekt/ *noun* intentionally not doing something which it is your duty to do

will /wɪl/ *noun* ◆ **last will and testament**

COMMENT: To make a valid will, a person must be of age and of sound mind; normally a will must be signed and witnessed in the presence of two witnesses who are not interested in the will. In English law there is complete freedom to dispose of one's property after death as one wishes. However, any dependant may apply for provision to be made out of the estate of a deceased under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act.

winding up /ˌwaɪndɪŋ ˈʌp/ *noun* liquidation, the closing of a company and selling its assets

winding up petition /ˌwaɪndɪŋ ʌp pəˈtɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an application to a court for an order that a company be put into liquidation

window /ˈwɪndəʊ/ *noun* □ **window of opportunity** short moment when the conditions for something are especially favourable

wind up /ˌwaɪnd ˈʌp/ *verb* **1.** to end something such as a meeting ○ *He wound up the meeting with a vote of thanks to the committee.* **2.** □ **to wind up a company** to put a company into liquidation ○ *The court ordered the company to be wound up.*

wire fraud /ˈwaɪə frɔːd/ *noun* in the USA, the crime of using interstate telecommunications systems to obtain money or some other benefit by deception

wiretapping /ˈwaɪətæpɪŋ/ *noun* the action of secretly listening in on a telephone line

with costs /ˌwɪð ˈkɒsts/ *adverb* □ **judgment for someone with costs** judgment that the party's plea was correct and that all the costs of the case should be paid by the other party

withdraw /wɪðˈdrɔː/ *verb* **1.** to say that a charge, accusation or statement is no longer valid ○ *The prosecution has withdrawn the charges against him.* ○ *He was forced to withdraw his statement.* ○ *The chairman asked him to withdraw the remarks he had made about the finance director.* **2.** to take money out of an account ○ *to withdraw money from the bank* or *from your account* ○ *You can withdraw up to £50 from any bank on presentation*

of a banker's card. **3.** to take back an offer □ **one of the company's backers has withdrawn** he stopped supporting the company financially

withhold /wɪð'həʊld/ *verb* not to give something such as information which should be given ○ *She was charged with withholding information from the police.* ○ *Approval of any loan will not be unreasonably withheld.*

without /wɪ'ðaʊt/ *preposition* □ **without prejudice** phrase spoken or written in letters when attempting to negotiate a settlement, meaning that the negotiations cannot be referred to in court or relied upon by the other party if the discussions fail □ **without reserve** sale at an auction where an item has no reserve price

witness /'wɪtnəs/ *noun* **1.** somebody who sees something happen or who is present when something happens □ **to act as a witness to a document, a signature** to sign a document to show that you have watched the main signatory sign it □ **in witness whereof** first words of the testimonium clause, where the signatory of the will or contract signs **2.** somebody who appears in court to give evidence ■ *verb* to sign a document to show that you guarantee that the other signatures on it are genuine ○ *to witness an agreement* or *a signature* □ **'now this deed witnesseth'** words indicating that the details of the agreement follow

witness box /'wɪtnəs ˌbɒks/ *noun* a place in a courtroom where the witnesses give evidence

witness of fact /ˌwɪtnəs əv 'fækt/ *noun* somebody who gives evidence to say that facts in a claim are true

witness statement /ˌwɪtnəs 'steɪtmənt/ *noun* a written statement made by a witness and signed, containing evidence which he or she will make orally in court

witness summary /ˌwɪtnəs 'sʌməri/ *noun* a short document which summarises the evidence which will be in a witness statement, or which lists points which a witness will be questioned on in court

witness summons /'wɪtnəs ˌsʌmənz/ *noun* a court order requiring someone to appear as a witness and if necessary produce documents relevant to the case (NOTE: Since the introduction of the new Civil Procedure Rules in April 1999, this term has replaced **subpoena ad testificandum** and **subpoena duces tecum**.)

WLR *abbreviation* Weekly Law Reports

woman police constable /ˌwʊmən pəˌliːs 'kʌnstəb(ə)l/ *noun* the lowest rank of police officer ○ *The sergeant and six constables searched the premises.* (NOTE: Constable can be used to address a policeman; also used with a name: **Constable Smith**; it is usually abbreviated to PC or WPC.)

Woolsack /'wʊlsæk/ *noun* the seat of the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords

word /wɜːd/ *noun* □ **to give one's word** to promise ○ *He gave his word that the matter would remain confidential.*

wording /'wɜːdɪŋ/ *noun* a series of words ○ *Did you understand the wording of the contract?*

words of art /ˌwɜːdz əv 'ɑːt/ *noun* words that have a special meaning in law

working party /'wɜːkɪŋ ˌpɑːti/ *noun* a group of experts who study a problem ○ *The government has set up a working party to study the problems of industrial waste.* ○ *Professor Smith is the chairman of the working party on drug abuse.*

work in hand /ˌwɜːk ɪn 'hænd/ *noun* work which is in progress but not finished

work permit /'wɜːk ˌpɜːmɪt/ *noun* an official document which allows someone who is not a citizen to work in a country

wound /wuːnd/ *noun* a cut done to the skin of a person ○ *She has a knife wound in her leg.* ■ *verb* to injure or to hurt someone in such a way that his or her skin is cut ○ *He was wounded in the fight.*

wounding with intent /ˌwuːndɪŋ wɪð ɪn'tent/ *noun* the offence of injuring someone, especially when trying to avoid arrest

WPC *abbreviation* woman police constable

wreck /rek/ *noun* **1.** the action of sinking or badly damaging a ship ○ *They saved the cargo from the wreck.* **2.** a ship which has sunk or which has been badly

damaged and cannot float ○ *Oil poured out of the wreck of the ship.* **3.** a company which has become insolvent ○ *He managed to save some of his investment from the wreck of the company.* ○ *Investors lost thousands of pounds in the wreck of the investment company.* ■ *verb* to damage badly or to ruin ○ *They are trying to salvage the wrecked ship.* ○ *The defence case was wrecked by the defendant's behaviour in court.*

writ /rɪt/ *noun* **1.** □ **to serve someone with a writ** to give someone a writ officially, so that he or she has to defend it or allow judgment to be taken in their absence **2.** a legal action to hold a by-election □ **to move a writ** to propose in the House of Commons that a by-election should be held

write in /ˌraɪt 'ɪn/ *verb US* to write the name of a candidate in a space on the voting paper

write-in candidate /ˌraɪt ɪn 'kændɪdeɪt/ *noun* a candidate whose name has been written by the voters on their voting papers

writ of fieri facias /ˌrɪt əv ˌfaɪraɪ 'feɪʃiæs/ *noun* a court order to a sheriff telling them to seize the goods of a debtor against whom judgment has been made (NOTE: often abbreviated to **fi. fa.**)

writ of habeas corpus /ˌrɪt əv ˌheɪbiəs 'kɔːpəs/ *noun* a writ to obtain the release of someone who has been unlawfully held in prison or in police custody, or to make the person holding them bring them to court to explain why they are being held

writ of summons /ˌrɪt əv 'sʌmənz/ *noun* ➧ **claim form**

written application /ˌrɪt(ə)n ˌæplɪ 'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the first part of proceedings in the European Court of Justice, where an applicant makes a written application against which the defendant may reply in writing. The papers will then be examined by the judge rapporteur and one of the Advocates General, before moving on to oral hearings.

wrong /rɒŋ/ *noun* an act against natural justice or which infringes someone else's right ○ *Civil wrongs against persons or property are called 'torts'.*

wrongdoer /'rɒŋduːə/ *noun* somebody who commits an offence

wrongdoing /'rɒŋduːɪŋ/ *noun* activity which is against the law

wrongful /'rɒŋf(ə)l/ *adjective* unlawful

wrongful dismissal /ˌrɒŋf(ə)l dɪs 'mɪs(ə)l/ *noun* the removal of someone from a job for a reason which does not justify dismissal and is in breach of the contract of employment

COMMENT: An employee can complain of wrongful dismissal to a county court or, where the compensation claimed is less than £25 000, to an employment tribunal.

wrongfully /'rɒŋf(ə)li/ *adverb* in an unlawful way ○ *He claimed he was wrongfully dismissed.* ○ *She was accused of wrongfully holding her clients' money.*

wrongly /'rɒŋli/ *adverb* not correctly ○ *He wrongly invoiced Smith Ltd for £250, when he should have credited them with the same amount.*

YZ

year and a day rule /ˌjɪə ənd ə ˈdeɪ ˌruːl/ *noun* an ancient rule that a person could not be convicted of murder if the victim died more than 366 days after the attack

COMMENT: The rule was abolished in 1996, as it had come to be used as a defence in cases of work-related deaths, such as from asbestosis or radiation, which may occur many years after the first contamination.

year end /ˌjɪə ˈend/ *noun* the end of the financial year, when a company's accounts are prepared ○ *The accounts department has started work on the year-end accounts.*

yellow dog contract /ˌjeləʊ ˈdɒg ˌkɒntrækt/ *noun US* a contract of employment where the employee is forbidden to join a trade union

young offender /jʌŋ əˈfendə/**, youthful offender** *US* /ˌjuːθf(ə)l əˈfendə/ *noun* a person aged between seventeen and twenty years of age who has committed an offence

Young Offender Institution /ˌjʌŋ əˈfendə ˌɪnstɪtjuːʃ(ə)n/**, young offenders institution** *noun* a centre where young offenders are sent for training if they have committed crimes which would usually be punishable by a prison sentence

young person /ˌjʌŋ ˈpɜːs(ə)n/ *noun* somebody over fourteen years of age, but less than seventeen

youth /juːθ/ *noun* a young man

Youth Court /ˈjuːθ kɔːt/ *noun* a court which tries offenders between the ages of 10 and 18. Former name **Juvenile Court**

youth custody order /juːθ ˌkʌstədi ˈɔːdə/ *noun* a sentence sending a young person to detention in a special centre

zebra crossing /ˌzebrə ˈkrɒsɪŋ/ *noun* a place in a street marked with white lines, where pedestrians have right of way to cross

zero inflation /ˌzɪərəʊ ɪnˈfleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* inflation at 0%

zero-rated /ˌzɪərəʊ ˈreɪtɪd/ *adjective* having a VAT rate of 0%

zip code /ˈzɪp ˈkəʊd/ *noun US* a series of numbers used to represent the area or part of a city or town where an address is situated (NOTE: The British term is **post code**.)

zipper clause /ˈzɪpə klɔːz/ *noun US* a standard clause in a contract of employment, which tries to prevent any discussion of employment conditions during the life of the agreement

zoning /ˈzəʊnɪŋ/ *noun* an order by a local council that land shall be used only for one type of building

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Legislative procedure in the UK

Green Paper Stage	a paper discussing the issues surrounding the proposed bill (optional)
White Paper Stage	a paper stating current policy on the issues surrounding the proposed bill (optional)
Draft Bill Stage	the wording of the Bill is drafted
First Reading	the Bill is presented formally in Parliament as a reading with no debate or decision
Second Reading	the Bill is read again to the House and a debate takes place
Committee stage	a standing committee (a committee of about 18 house members, more for long or complicated bills) debates whether each clause and schedule of the Bill should be kept or dropped
Report Stage	the whole house looks at the amendments proposed by the standing committee and propose and debate any of their own
Third Reading Stage	the whole redrafted Bill is read once more in the House and briefly discussed
Lords Approval Stage	the House of Lords takes the Bill and goes through the same procedure from First to Third Reading, debating any amendments. The Lords and Commons agree on a final text
Royal Assent Stage	royal approval is given and the Bill becomes a statute (Act of Parliament)

Legislative procedure in the UK *continued*

Important Note: The Parliament Act
The entire process must take place in one Session of Parliament, meaning that a Bill may not be passed purely because it has run out of time. This means that the House of Lords may 'kill' a Bill they don't wish to pass (for example the Hunting Bill 2002) by taking an overly long time to discuss it. In this case the Parliament Act means that the Bill can be reintroduced and passed in the following Session *without* the approval of the Lords, with the following conditions:

1. The Lords had enough time to debate it before the end of the session (at least one month).

2. The wording of the Bill hasn't changed since the last presentation.

3. One year has passed since the Bill was given its Second Reading in the Commons.

Private Members' Bills go through the same procedure from First Reading. However, there is intense competition for the little Parliamentary time available for considering these. Unless the Bill is completely uncontroversial it is likely to be formally objected to at some stage and therefore dropped; otherwise it is more or less 'nodded through' without much debate.

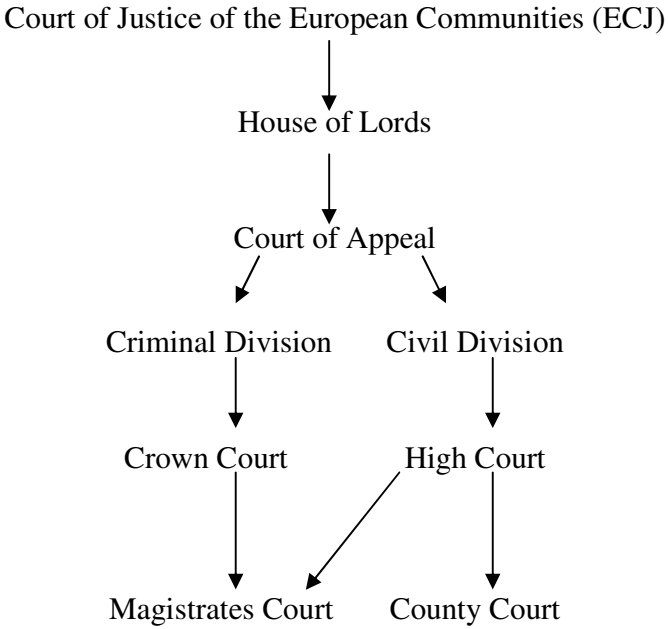
Legislative procedure in the European Union

Proposal	the European Commission drafts the text of a Bill
First Reading	the European Parliament submits the Bill to a committee reading and a report is prepared with suggested amendments
Common Position	the European Council either accepts the amended Bill or suggests its own amendments (NB this is the first point at which the Bill can be passed)
Recommendation	a further committee assessment is undertaken of the Council's proposed amendments at Parliament and a recommendation given
Second Reading	Parliament debates the committee's report and vote by absolute majority whether to accept the Council's amendments and on further amendments of their own
Amended proposal	the Commission looks at Parliament's second reading decisions and drafts an amended proposal for the Council, who vote whether to accept or modify it (this is the second point at which the Bill can be passed)
Conciliation committee	a committee of members from both the Council and Parliament meet to agree on a joint text
Third Reading	Parliament meets to finally discuss whether to adopt the Bill as law. If no mutual agreement can be reached the Bill will lapse.

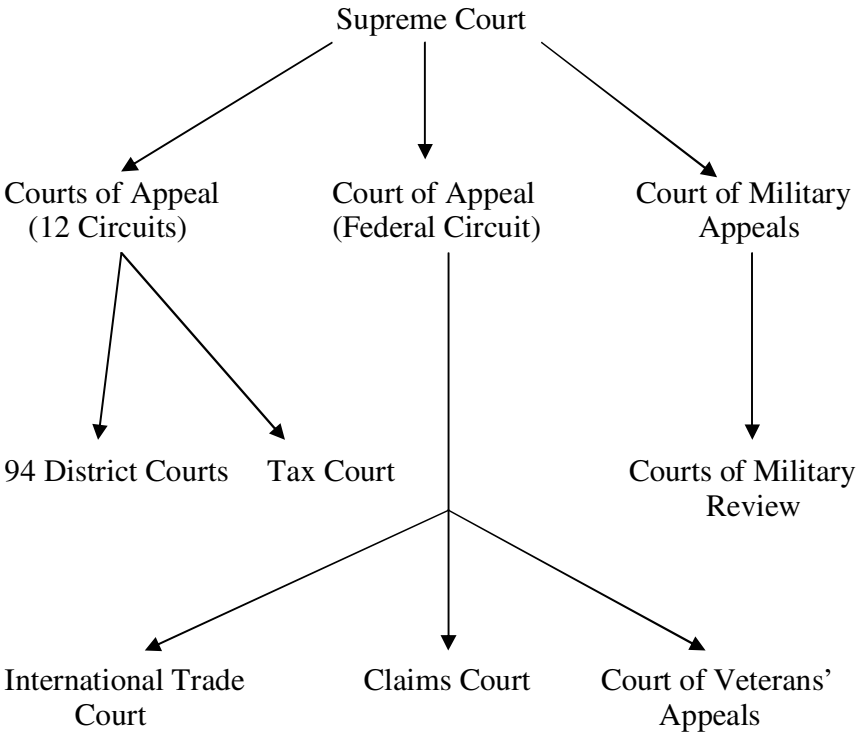
Legislative procedure in the US

Introduction	the draft Bill is submitted to the House without reading or debate (any time while the House is in session)
Referral to Committee	the Bill is published and assigned an identification number, then sent to the appropriate committee (of 19) according to its subject
Committee Action 1	relevant offices and departments give their input, reports are prepared on the validity of the Bill and committee meetings are held
Committee Action 2	a public hearing may be held before a subcommittee with the questioning of witnesses and the attendance of interested parties
Markup	the subcommittee prepares a report on the hearing with any relevant amendments to the Bill
Final Committee Action	the full committee reads and amends the Bill and either reports it back favourably to the House, tables it or discharges it (thereby preventing it from progressing any further), or reports it back without recommendation (rare)
House Floor Consideration	the committee report is debated in the House and any further amendments voted on
Resolving Differences	the Bill is sent to the Senate for house floor consideration and an identical version is agreed on by both bodies, possibly with the help of a mediating committee
Final Step	the Bill is approved (signed) by the President and becomes a Law

UK court structure



US court structure



Useful Internet Links

UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom Parliament: www.parliament.uk

Casetrack: www.casetrack.com

UK Court Service: www.courtservice.gov.uk

Her Majesty's Stationery Office (published Acts of Parliament): www.hmso.gov.uk/acts.htm

Citizens Advice Bureau Online: www.nacab.org.uk

The Crown Prosecution Service: www.cps.gov.uk

The British and Irish Legal Information Institute: www.bailii.org

Legal Week (an online newspaper for people in the legal profession): www.legalweek.net

Infolaw (a legal web portal): www.infolaw.co.uk

The Law Society: www.lawsoc.org.uk

The Law Commission: www.lawcom.gov.uk

Just ask! (Community Legal Service online): www.justask.org.uk/index.jsp

Law Campus (online resource for law students): www.lexisnexis.co.uk/lawcampus/student/student_index.htm

Scotland Legislation: www.scotland-legislation.hmso.gov.uk

Wales Legislation: www.wales-legislation.hmso.gov.uk

Northern Ireland Legislation: www.northernireland-legislation.hmso.gov.uk

EUROPEAN UNION

Europa (Summaries of EU legislation by area): http://europa.eu.int/scadplus/scad_en.htm

UNITED STATES

Office of the Law Revision Council (complete guide to the US code): http://uscode.house.gov

Enactment of a Law (legislative procedure in the United States): http://thomas.loc.gov/home/enactment/enactlaw.html